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The struggle for LGBT acceptance at Hopkins

The path forward: 1987 through 2016

By JACOB TOOK
For *The News-Letter*

Only a few decades ago, the LGBT+ community at Hopkins struggled to establish a presence on campus. Now, Hopkins students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer have a number of resources and support groups available to them. But the road there was not easy.

David Horowitz, class of 1986, served as vice president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) during a turbulent time in the gay rights movement. After graduating, he went on to co-found the Lesbian and Gay Alumni Association (LAGA) in 1987, the first LGBT+ alumni group at Hopkins. Horowitz described what it was like to be LGBT+ on campus before the creation of today's support networks.

"The environment on campus [back then] is really hard to describe for students today," Horowitz said. "It was really dif-

ficult to be out. You grew up gay back in those days, and you thought you were the only one. Until you met other people, you had no idea how many other people in the world were gay."

GALA's meetings provided a place for Horowitz to connect with other LGBT+ students at Hopkins, but the social attitude at the time was not accepting of his sexual orientation. Some people, particularly gay men who weren't involved in the group, avoided Horowitz because he was publicly out and they did not want to be associated with the gay community.

"On campus, you were alone," Horowitz said.

The significance of the meetings quickly became apparent, and he befriended Joshua Einhorn, with whom he co-founded LAGA. They were no strangers to social intolerance.

"The most important thing I got out of being involved with the

SEE LGBT, PAGE A6



COURTESY OF DAVID HOROWITZ
Members of LAGA marched in the D.C. pride parade in October 1987.

Report illustrates lack of faculty diversity

By PETER JI
Senior Staff Writer

In the first-ever JHU Report on Faculty Composition, the Office of the Provost evaluated faculty diversity in all nine departmental divisions of the University. The report provides a baseline measurement for future efforts to diversify.

Released on Thursday, Sept. 22, the report uses data from the faculty census of Nov. 2015 with further corrections from March 2016. It includes responses from 84 percent of faculty members.

The report released a study on the statistics of three categories: women faculty members, minority faculty members and underrepresented minority (URM) faculty members. It defined URM ethnicities as black, American Indian, Hispanic, Pacific Islander and native Alaskan. The report placed all non-white respondents into the minority category.

It also indicated percentage increases in all three categories, though to differing degrees. Over the past six years, there was a seven per-

cent increase in minority faculty, four percent increase in women and a two percent increase in URM.

Thirty percent of faculty members in the nine divisions were minorities and eight percent were URM. The Education, Business and Nursing schools had the largest proportion of URM, with percentages hovering around 10 percent.

Asian faculty members were the most represented minority in seven of the nine divisions. Black faculty members were the most represented in the

Education and Nursing divisions, and the most represented URM in five of the nine divisions.

Women made up 42 percent of faculty overall, with more women in non-professional ranks than professorial ranks. They are least represented in Engineering at 19 percent while women constitute the majority of faculty in Education, Nursing and Public Health. The percentage of women who were full-time professors increased in three of the four largest divisions, while

SEE FACULTY, PAGE A4

MEDHACKS 2.0



COURTESY OF KUNAL MAITI

Students from across the country competed in the second annual MedHacks, where medicine and technology meet. See Page B7.

New initiative targets the sophomore slump

By AMY HAN
Senior Staff Writer

The University has launched a new Second-Year Experience (SYE) Program, led by Assistant Director Aaron Rutledge, to fight against the "sophomore slump."

Hopkins students often struggle during their second year with increasingly challenging classes and looming career expectations.

The program intends to develop new second-year initiatives to assist students in their transition from freshman to sophomore year.

Mental Health

The "sophomore slump" is a period of anxiety many students feel as classes get harder and the unclear, post-college future gets closer. As the novelty and

excitement of college wears off after their first year, students have more difficulty continuing to thrive throughout their sophomore year.

Matthew Torres, the executive director of the Counseling Center, argued that while students at all levels face challenges and stresses, there are some issues particularly pertinent to sophomores.

"The newness of college has worn off and they face a potentially daunting 'long haul.' They may experience disenchantment with their major and face the difficult decision of how to proceed," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "They may not have found satisfying connections with their peers and with the university and feel like nothing they have tried has worked."

Junior Minji Kim took a year off after her sophomore year after struggling academically and emotionally.

"Sophomore year is when people start focusing on the future. Not only is it more academically demanding, but I also think that people start buckling down and looking at 'what are the steps I need to take to get to where I want to be post-grad,'" she wrote

in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I was burnt out physically from studying especially as a pre-med... To be honest, I wasn't treasuring my mental health."

Torres considers the lack of support for second-year students to be one of the main reasons for the "slump."

"First-year students have traditionally received a great deal of

SEE SYE, PAGE A7

Student groups critique roadmap on diversity

By FAITH TERRY
For *The News-Letter*

The University released its Roadmap on Diversity and Inclusion last March partially in response to the Black Student Union (BSU) protests in the fall of 2015. The Roadmap details the University's plan to

increase diversity among faculty and students, in addition to creating more opportunities for underrepresented minorities (URM).

Many students, especially students of color, feel that have expressed frustrated with the document. The University is currently gathering feedback from students, alumni, faculty and staff to prepare a new draft that will be released this semester.

In an email on Sept. 16, University President Ronald J. Daniels updated the student body on the progress the University has made, including hiring more faculty members of color, holding events and programs

related to diversity and inclusion and a new interactive workshop, "Identity and Inclusion at Hopkins," which is required for all incoming freshmen.

Many student groups, however, feel that these efforts have been inadequate. Corey Payne, co-chair of the Hopkins chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), specifically pointed out the University's failure to address racial discrimination.

"The biggest issue with the Roadmap is that it's 45 pages

"It's all about increasing diversity. That's a nice buzzword, but it doesn't change anything."

— COREY PAYNE
SDS CO-CHAIR

es and it never uses the word 'racism,' not once," Payne said. "It's all about increasing diversity. That's a nice buzzword, but it doesn't change anything."

While the Roadmap includes definite proposals to hire faculty from underrepresented minorities, BSU President Tiffany Onyejiaka made the distinction between increasing diversity and creating a supportive environment for inclusion.

SEE ROADMAP, PAGE A4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Murray amuses in *St. Vincent*

Self-professed Bill Murray lover Will Kirsch reviews *St. Vincent* and finds it to be a satisfying, if unpredictable, film.
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Let's talk about periods

Voices editor Meagan Peoples on why menstruation is neither a problem nor a source of shame. VOICES, PAGE A9

Protests vs. patriotism

Emeline Armitage supports Kaepernick's decision to protest during the national anthem. OPINIONS, PAGE A11

NEWS & FEATURES

Rec Center officials talk at SGA Meeting

By KAREN SHENG
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) met with administrators from the Ralph S. O'Connor Recreation Center and the Department of Athletics at its weekly meeting in Commons on Sept. 27.

The SGA also approved a bill funding care packages for displaced Charles Commons residents.

Alanna Shanahan, the newly appointed director of athletics and recreation, spoke about new ways to build up the Hopkins community and get students involved.

"Two things that I'm really passionate about are finding ways to engage the Hopkins undergraduate community," Shanahan said. "How we can build community, how we can have fantastic events, how do we engage you in athletics and recreation programming — just to create a fun and festive environment and provide a platform for you to get to know one another."

Shanahan spoke about how stress from schoolwork is a recurring complaint from both athletes and non-athletes, and she believes that the Rec Center would be a good space for expanding community-building programming.

"I unfortunately hear that the stress and tension are a challenge for most students. So I'm thinking, we have these powerful programs, in this powerful space, and what can we do to help this community to wrestle with these issues," Shanahan said. "How [do] we build university community broadly, how do we integrate student athletes with non-athletes, but again, how do we create programs that you guys want to come to... Because we want to make sure we're hearing from undergraduate students and what they're passionate about."

Jackie Lebeau, the assistant director of fitness at the Rec Center, further elaborated on the need to encourage more students to participate in the Rec Center's programs and to use the athletic facilities.

"We know that not everyone on campus goes into our building, and that's something that we want to change because we want to know why aren't we getting more people in our building," Lebeau said. "We have all this stuff that everyone — undergraduates, everybody — pays for already in student fees, so what's holding people from actually walking over and taking advantage of the pool, or the courts, or the indoor track or the weight room?"

She then gave an in-depth explanation of the new programs offered by Experiential Education. In particular, a new offering is "brogia," or men's only yoga, which was created as a counterpart to a ladies' night in the weight room, an event formed in response to the male-dominated environment of the weight room.

"We get so much feedback from our female members saying that they feel uncomfortable

in our weight room and I don't really know how to change that culture, so I would love to hear feedback if you've experienced that," Lebeau said.

Executive President Charlie Green believes that having a ladies' night in the Rec Center would be beneficial to those who do not know how to use weights.

"I don't know exactly what to do and I never entered the weight room in the rec center, [so] having a ladies' night in the weight room will be helpful," Green said. "I don't think it's necessarily the fact that there's guys there, I think it's more just like, 'I don't know what I'm doing.'"

Later in the meeting, Green formally welcomed the prospective freshmen SGA candidates, who were required to attend an SGA meeting before being qualified to run for a position. This year will be especially competitive with 17 candidates running for six available senator positions and eight candidates running for one available class president position.

Green also spoke about the SGA Fall Forum, which will take place on Nov. 8 and will be divided into three sections encompassing the priorities of the year: spirit, mental health, diversity and inclusion.

"The goal of this forum is to showcase what the SGA has been working on and to showcase what student groups have been working on and to connect these student groups and administrators," Green said. "Having all those groups and us together and all those administrators is a great opportunity to talk together about these issues and to talk in the future and to know each other."

Sophomore Class Senator Ash Panakam presented the Commons Care Package Act of 2016 for the victims of the sprinkler flood that occurred in Charles Commons on Sept. 4.

"The purpose is simple, we wanted to personally acknowledge the concerns of everyone who got flooded out," Panakam said. "I know there were people speaking on social media and stuff like that, and we also want to encourage students to share how their experiences were with SGA. We are here to represent them and trying to get our face out there."

The care packages, which each cost approximately \$14, will consist of a Hopkins Blue Jay mug from Barnes & Noble, packets of Swiss Miss instant hot chocolate, peanut-free chocolate, a flyer containing information about SGA's general meeting and internet memes. Panakam estimated that the packages should be delivered by the end of the week.

Sophomore Class Senator AJ Tsang, who was personally affected by the sprinkler flooding incident, spoke about the purpose of this new initiative.

"We're providing support to the residents who were moved to the AMRs or Homewood for the duration of the reparations," Tsang said.

Annual book festival spotlights local writers

By EMMA ROALSVIG
For The News-Letter

The annual Baltimore Book Festival took place at the Inner Harbor this weekend from Sept. 23 to Sept. 25.

The festival featured nonstop readings by local fiction and poetry writers across multiple stages alongside hundreds of author appearances, book signings, workshops and panel discussions. Exhibitions, book sellers, street theatre, live music and food stations added to the festivities.

One of the booths at the festival advertised "Poe Forevermore," a radio theater series recorded with live studio audiences, created by Mark Redfield.

The series includes a host of stories that range from thrillers to mysteries. They can be streamed online from his website or purchased through iTunes.

Redfield explained his personal fascination with Edgar Allan Poe's work and the way it inspired his research on Poe's work and life.

"I was looking for a Poe story that I could adapt into a movie that hadn't been done before," Redfield said. "While reading and researching, I got more and more interested in Poe's life and death. Many of the stories were ones written about Poe and there weren't any about his own life. After this, opportunities opened up for me to do talks about him, and I even did some work at the Poe House and Museum. Doing cartoons and telling stories of Poe at events led to my interest in radio plays."

Redfield's initial interest in Poe prompted him to create the radio theater series about Poe's life and death. The series quickly expanded as he began writing stories about other famous legends as well.

"I started out the radio series with *The Death of Poe*, a story about a mystery that will never be solved," Redfield said. "Now, I have about a dozen total plays, including a sequel to *Dracula*, a Western about *Tom Mix*, and another about *Sinbad the Sailor*."

The Maryland Writers' Association (MWA) occupied another one of the booths at the festival. The MWA advertises a diverse membership, ranging from published authors and professional freelancers to even aspiring writers or freelancers in the Baltimore community, looking for a creative outlet.

MWA members and volunteers used the festival booth as an opportunity to advertise their organization and sell their own books.

Writer and MWA member Wendy Sand Eckel spoke about why she joined the MWA and the many opportunities the association offered for writers.

"I joined the Maryland Writers' Association because I had published a book traditionally on demand and I was working on another book that I wanted a critique group for," Eckel explained. "The MWA holds monthly meetings. At the MWA annual conference, there are guest speakers, workshops on the craft of writing, and opportunities to pitch agents and network. It was a life-changing experience. I think writing is a lost art, but a good art."

Eckel has published two murder mysteries and recently entered another unpublished novel in the annual MWA contest, which won the category for 'Best Novel'.

The Ivy Bookshop was the festival's official bookseller and offered a selection of books by local authors for purchase. The Ivy Bookshop also had a stage at the festival, featuring ongoing readings by local authors.

On Saturday afternoon, award-winning writer Jessica Anya Blau read sections from her new novel, *The Trouble With Lexie: A Novel*. Blau is a graduate of the University's Writing Seminars Masters program



COURTESY OF SELIN YUCESAN

Book lovers perused works showcased by local, celebrity and nationally known authors at the festival.

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and is currently an adjunct faculty member. She has published more than two dozen short stories.

There were multiple booths selling classic literature books at the festival as well.

The Maryland Book Bank, whose mission is to cultivate literacy in children from low-income families, held a booth selling classic editions of books at low prices.

Rock Paper Books held another booth selling re-invented classic books with modern versions of cover art.

The Shakespeare Company held live theatre performances, including a staged reading of *Desdemona*, a reimagined story of the women in Shakespeare's *Othello*.

B'More Books' booth sold necklaces with small bronze lockets of famous book covers. The necklaces featured a number of popular book titles, including *Catcher in the Rye*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Twilight*. B'More Books is a family business that has advertised their products at festivals across the country.

George from B'More Books explained the inspiration behind his innovative business venture and how the business was founded.

"I saw a necklace online, it was *To Kill a Mockingbird*, made entirely out of paper," he explained. "I bought it for my wife and she loved it, until two weeks later in the rain, it fell apart. I wanted to make her one that would last, so I used software to

minimize the image and set it on a bronze cover covered in clear acrylic. A couple of her friends liked it and wanted one of their own, so I made their favorite books into necklaces as well, and then the business just took off."

Many Hopkins students

attended the festival and enjoyed the festivities as a break from their schoolwork.

Sophomore Matthias Gompers attended the festival two years in a row and spoke about his favorite aspect of this year's festival.

"I went because I went last year, and I had a lot of fun. My favorite part was the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library table; I didn't know that existed, and he's my favorite author," Gompers explained. "The library was founded in Indianapolis, but they have a Baltimore specific branch book club. It was really cool to meet and talk to other Vonnegut aficionados and to read the literary magazine that the library publishes every year and to see other fans emulate his writing and carry out the tradition."

As a Baltimore local, Gompers explained that he particularly enjoyed the festival because it combined together aspects of his home and school life.

"I am an avid book lover, and as a local I, love seeing any big festival that brings people to Baltimore, because it's nice to share my city with others and show people that Baltimore is more than just their first impressions of it," he said.

Gompers also appreciated how the Book Festival brought attention to the humanities in a society focused on science and technology.

"I think in today's world, where we are ever increasingly technology-fixed and STEM-driven, it's important to remember that the humanities are just as important for the existence of society. What better reminder than a festival celebrating literature throughout the ages?" he said.

Sophomore Astrid Oberbrunner had been looking forward to the festival since she first heard about the event a month ago.

"I wanted to go because I loved to read," Oberbrunner said. "I thought it would be fun to celebrate that and also to meet writers and other people in the book industry."

Sophomore Isabella Altherr has also attended the event in prior years. She compared her experience at this year's festival to last year's.

"It was actually a bit bigger than last year's festival, and the food was a lot better, with more new Baltimore-y stands," Altherr said. "As far as the books, they're always great. I love seeing the different small publishers and bookstores."

Local authors read aloud from their books at stages set up across the Inner Harbor.

COURTESY OF SELIN YUCESAN

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Students critique Trump’s debate temperament



COURTESY OF DIVYA BARON
Students gathered in Nolan’s to watch the first presidential debate.

By **ABIGAIL GREENE**
For *The News-Letter*

The first presidential debate viewing party of the general election was hosted by the Hopkins College Democrats, the College Republicans, IDEAL and JHUnions in Nolan’s on Monday. The debate, moderated by NBC’s Lester Holt, was broadcast live in the dining facility. Debate topics included the economy, race and national security.

Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton began by reiterating promises to create a fairer economy. These included an increase in the minimum wage, equal pay, family leave, affordable child care, debt-free college and an end to corporate loopholes.

“First, we have to build an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top. That means we need new jobs, good jobs, with rising incomes,” Clinton said. “We also have to make the economy fairer. That starts with raising the national minimum wage and also guarantee, finally, equal pay for women’s work.”

Republican nominee Donald Trump focused on outsourcing of American jobs.

“Our jobs are fleeing the country. They’re going to Mexico... You look at what China is doing to our country in terms of making our product. They’re devaluing their currency, and there’s nobody in our government to fight them,” Trump said. “Because they’re using our

country as a piggy bank to rebuild China, and many other countries are doing the same thing.”

He also promised to reduce taxes while decreasing the debt and rebuilding infrastructure.

“We’re a serious debtor nation. And we have a country that needs new roads, new tunnels, new bridges, new airports, new schools, new hospitals,” Trump said.

President of the Hopkins College Democrats senior Cynthia Hadler said that Trump is good at formulating a convincing anti-free-trade message.

“He advanced by creating scapegoats, whether it be Mexico, China or different trade deals,” Hadler said. “But at the same time, it’s not a zero-sum game. Trade is mutually beneficial.”

On the issue of race, Trump repeated his “law and order” slogan and advocated stop-and-frisk as an way to reduce crime.

“We have gangs roaming the street... Right now our police, in many cases, are afraid to do anything. We have to protect our inner cities, because African-American communities are being decimated by crime,” he said. “Whether or not in a place like Chicago you do stop-and-frisk... It brought the crime rate way down.”

Hadler thought Trump was out of touch with voters.

“It’s really problematic to paint their entire existence as this war-zone tragedy,” Hadler said.

“He’s out of touch, and he doesn’t know how to reach those voters, resonate with them or fix the problem.”

Clinton advocated fixing mandatory minimum sentences, creating more second chance programs, ending private prisons in federal and state systems and enacting background checks and bans on certain weapon classes.

“Race remains a significant challenge in our country. Unfortunately, race still determines too much, often determines where people live, determines what kind of education in their public schools they can get, and, yes, it determines how they’re treated in the criminal justice system,” Clinton said. “We’ve got to address the systemic racism in our criminal justice system. We cannot just say law and order. We have to come forward with a plan that is going to divert people from the criminal justice system, deal with mandatory minimum sentences.”

Hadler, however, mentioned the multi-determinate causes of systematic racism and questioned whether it could be fixed with legislation.

“You have to fix the cycle of poverty. You have to fix racial biases in law enforcement and judicial courts. And I don’t think there’s law that can fix racial issues or gender issues... You just have to talk about it until you’re blue in the face,” Hadler said.

For the theme of “Securing America,” Clinton discussed the need to defend America against both commercial and state hackers and to cooperate with NATO and other allies to address terrorism.

Trump blamed Clinton and Obama for constructing a power vacuum that allowed for the creation of Daesh. He suggested working with NATO, although he reiterated that the United States cannot continue to support the costs of the alliance if other member nations do not pay.

The audience at Nolan’s generally seemed to favor Clinton. Several of Clinton’s lines, especially those concerning race and the prison system, were met with applause.

Trump was never applauded and was occasionally met with laughter, in particular when he spoke about his temperament.

“I have a much better temperament than [Clinton] does,” Trump said. “I think my strongest asset, maybe by far, is my temperament.”

Sophomore Rachel Long did not agree with Trump’s self-evaluation.

“Donald Trump says Hillary Clinton doesn’t have policies, but he’s the one who doesn’t,” she said.

Sophomore Caroline Lupetini agreed.

“I think Hillary’s much more composed,” she said. “She’s just letting him talk himself into a hole.”

Samantha Hardy, a sophomore Republican, thought that the debate was unproductive.

“The presidential debate was not as productive, or even as entertaining, as I thought it would be,” she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. “Both candidates said what was expected of them.”

Freshman Anna Gordon had a somewhat more positive outlook on Trump.

“He was a lot more poised than I expected,” she said. “But, that doesn’t mean I like him. I don’t think he’s doing well. I think relative to how he did in the GOP debates he’s much calmer.”

Earlier on Tuesday, the JHU College Republicans endorsed Trump’s candidacy. In their announcement they stressed that the decision does not reflect the individual opinions of club members. The post on Facebook garnered strong reactions on social media with 34 shares and 121 ‘reactions’ at the time of print.

The viewing party for the vice presidential debate will be held on Oct. 2 in Nolan’s.

JHUnions promotes student engagement

By **ALYSSA WOODEN**
For *The News-Letter*

Established in 2014, JHUnions is a program within the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement that seeks to enhance on-campus social opportunities by bringing together Levering Hall, the Mattin Center and Nolan’s on 33rd, the three main student programming spaces on campus. It was founded in 2014 by the Office of Student Life.

Coordinator of Union Programming for JHUnions Caitlin Tumey explained that the organization hopes to increase community on campus with their diverse range of activities.

“JHUnions offers fun, social programming for JHU students with a particular focus on evening and weekend programming,” Tumey wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. “We hope to enhance the social programming opportunities on campus and increase the level of student engagement.”

Tumey also described the positive reactions and feedback JHUnions events have been gathering.

“Thus far, this semester, the response has been very positive at many JHUnions events and through continuing to talk with students and grow our network through partnerships, we will continue to strengthen our presence and provide rich programming for students,” Tumey wrote.

JHUnions is expanding its presence on campus with the opening of The LAB, a new programming space, in January 2017. It will be located in the Homewood Apartments building and will join Levering, Mattin and Nolan’s as a social-centric space used for campus-wide programs.

“We are very excited about this new space as we believe it will provide more opportunities for unique programming offered by both JHUnions as well as other student organizations,” she wrote.

JHUnions plans a variety of events weekly, and regular ongoing programs include Saturday Paint Nights and Monday Night Trivia at Nolan’s. Additionally, the Friday Night Live on 33rd Series features a variety of programs that rotate on a monthly basis to include bingo, karaoke and poker nights. The group also plans one-off events, such as the Presidential Debate Watch Party in Nolan’s and Stuff a Pokémon in Levering.

Hopkins students play a critical role in JHUnions. Tumey explained that the organization often partners with other student groups to organize joint events and use common spaces.

“We hope to continue to broaden our network of partnerships with student organizations to utilize these spaces,” Tumey wrote. “Our part-

nerships with student organizations are not confined to just Friday nights and we are also partnering with student organizations and campus offices/departments for some upcoming programs that are happening on other days of the week.”

Sophomore Osiris Mancera, a member of Stressbusters, spoke about past experiences working with JHUnions. She hopes there will be further future collaboration.

“Stressbusters did a lot of partnering with JHUnions to do Paint Night last semester,” Mancera said. “Now we’re doing some more partnerships with them this semester and I think it’ll be really, really fun.”

Saturday Paint Nights are a popular JHUnions event. The event supplies art materials, from watercolors to oil pastels, for students to take a break from schoolwork by engaging creatively. It runs every Saturday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Tumey explained the motivation behind organizing Paint Night as a weekly event, stressing the idea of consistency in JHUnions events.

“Our weekly Paint Night offers a creative outlet for students on Saturday nights,” Tumey wrote. “By remaining consistent and weekly, it also becomes a program that students can rely on happening if they are looking for a fun activity on any Saturday night.”

At the event, students sat in groups around tables as they worked. Some students painted scenes taken entirely from their imaginations, while others copied pictures online or traced images from books.

Seniors Tiffany Chung and Clara Aranguren painted mini pumpkins in celebration of fall.

“I wanted to spruce up the apartment,” Chung said, gesturing to her Super Mario-themed pumpkin.

Sophomore Johnnie A. Johnson painted decorations for her dorm room. Johnson was drawn to the event for its atmosphere and plans to attend again in the future.

“I like how calm and relaxing it is here,” Johnson said. “They have all the supplies here ready for me, and the people are really cool, and the painting is really cool.”

Tumey added that JHUnions offered a platform for students to provide their own input about campus events and programs.

“We are very excited to have established a student programming board this semester and are eager to have them work on our ongoing programs and come up with new ideas as the year progresses,” Tumey wrote. “We are also open to student suggestions regarding events and hope to continue to improve JHUnions through student involvement.”

Hopkins gives back in annual day of service

By **SEBASTIAN KETTNER**
For *The News-Letter*

Over 1,000 students and faculty took part in the eighth annual President’s Day of Service on Saturday, Sept. 24. Participants volunteered in more than 40 different sites around Baltimore.

Students chose between three different types of service projects: City Beautification, Hunger and Food Justice and Working with Animals & People. The projects took place from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

University President Ronald J. Daniels addressed the volunteers in the Ralph S. O’Conner Recreation Center before they each departed to their volunteer sites and encouraged them to give back to the community.

“If the roughly 1,100 people here today did 50 hours of service a piece between now and April, that’s 55,000 hours of service, 3.3 million minutes, 6.2 years... all before Spring Fair is over,” Daniels said.

Daniels also advocated for HopServe50, a new initiative encouraging University students to commit to 50 hours of community service in an academic year. When Daniels joined

the University in 2009, he established the President’s Day of Service as a University-wide event to contribute to local non-profit organizations.

Many Hopkins groups took the day of service as an opportunity to give back to the community.

Freshman Raphael Bechtold participated as a member of the Varsity Swim Team. He worked with the Friends Stony Run to help clear vegetation growing over sidewalks. Their group removed litter and beautified a walking trail that runs along the Stony Run.

“As a swim team, we all decided to participate in the President’s Day of Service as a way to give back to the area surrounding Baltimore and surrounding Hopkins that we all love,” Bechtold said.

Staff Coordinator for the President’s Day of Service Megan Scharmann said volunteer projects are a way for students to discover the opportunities for service in their communities.

“I think that it’s a really great way for a lot of students to go out and be involved in their community on the ground level,” Scharmann said. “It’s also a very good way for students to find out

about ways they can get involved and be good citizens of Baltimore.”

Scharmann also touched on the unifying aspect of community service and how she would like to see students become more regular contributors.

“I’d love to see it really transition into something that encourages Hopkins students to, one, be involved in their community outside the bounds of campus on a more regular basis and, two, to encourage them to really recognize the places in which many community members in Baltimore are already doing great and necessary work for this city and figuring out the best ways to support that work,” Scharmann wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Sophomore Colleen Anderson volunteered with People’s Homesteading Group to help clean yards and a community garden that had overgrown. She commented that although the work was tiring, it was a rewarding experience.

“I was very tired by the end, and my group finished... before the three hours was even up,” Anderson said. “With the number of volunteers we had in my section, we were able to finish everything very quickly.”

Sophomore Natalia Rincon also worked with People’s Homesteading Group, and has participated in the President’s Day of Service since her freshman year.

“We just wanted to do our part for the community,” Rincon said.



COURTESY OF SIGMA CHI
Student groups, like fraternity Sigma Chi, volunteered in Baltimore.

Hopkins students play a critical role in JHUnions. Tumey explained that the organization often partners with other student groups to organize joint events and use common spaces.

“We hope to continue to broaden our network of partnerships with student organizations to utilize these spaces,” Tumey wrote. “Our part-

nerships with student organizations are not confined to just Friday nights and we are also partnering with student organizations and campus offices/departments for some upcoming programs that are happening on other days of the week.”

Sophomore Osiris Mancera, a member of Stressbusters, spoke about past experiences working with JHUnions. She hopes there will be further future collaboration.

“Stressbusters did a lot of partnering with JHUnions to do Paint Night last semester,” Mancera said. “Now we’re doing some more partnerships with them this semester and I think it’ll be really, really fun.”

Saturday Paint Nights are a popular JHUnions event. The event supplies art materials, from watercolors to oil pastels, for students to take a break from schoolwork by engaging creatively. It runs every Saturday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Tumey explained the motivation behind organizing Paint Night as a weekly event, stressing the idea of consistency in JHUnions events.

“Our weekly Paint Night offers a creative outlet for students on Saturday nights,” Tumey wrote. “By remaining consistent and weekly, it also becomes a program that students can rely on happening if they are looking for a fun activity on any Saturday night.”

At the event, students sat in groups around tables as they worked. Some students painted scenes taken entirely from their imaginations, while others copied pictures online or traced images from books.

Seniors Tiffany Chung and Clara Aranguren painted mini pumpkins in celebration of fall.

“I wanted to spruce up the apartment,” Chung said, gesturing to her Super Mario-themed pumpkin.

Sophomore Johnnie A. Johnson painted decorations for her dorm room. Johnson was drawn to the event for its atmosphere and plans to attend again in the future.

“I like how calm and relaxing it is here,” Johnson said. “They have all the supplies here ready for me, and the people are really cool, and the painting is really cool.”

Tumey added that JHUnions offered a platform for students to provide their own input about campus events and programs.

“We are very excited to have established a student programming board this semester and are eager to have them work on our ongoing programs and come up with new ideas as the year progresses,” Tumey wrote. “We are also open to student suggestions regarding events and hope to continue to improve JHUnions through student involvement.”

NEWS & FEATURES

Students push for roadmap improvements

ROADMAP, FROM A1
 "Diversity and inclusion are two completely different things," Onyejiaka said. "Being diverse means you have a student population that's representative of the entire country, meaning you show students of all backgrounds. But inclusivity is more about making sure that these people feel welcomed and respected and that this campus is really their own."

In creating an inclusive environment, Onyejiaka argued that the University has failed to stimulate real change.

"Many students who are minorities don't feel happy or welcomed here," she said. "They don't feel like they can join any club or sorority or even go to some parties on campus."

In particular, Onyejiaka feels that the difficulties faced by lower-income students have been largely ignored.

"Hopkins is severely lacking when it comes to diversity in socioeconomic status," she said. "Some people feel that they can't really delve into all aspects of life on campus because they can't afford it. There are people who have had to leave campus because they simply can't afford tuition."

Both Onyejiaka and Payne agree that some of these problems stem from a lack of addressing specific past racial issues in the text of the Roadmap.

"[The Roadmap] only addresses the composition of the student body and the faculty without actually talking about structures of power, racism and white supremacy," Payne said.

Onyejiaka hopes that the next draft of the Roadmap will mention specific occurrences and how they

will be addressed in the future.

"[The Roadmap] never talks about the racial instances we've had," Onyejiaka pointed out. "At other schools, it's understood that you can't be outwardly aggressive to minority students. At Hopkins, I don't think that anyone feels that way. They need to acknowledge past failures and discuss how they will prevent them in the future. I want more concrete plans, numbers and dates."

At the end of 2015, the BSU released a specific list of demands that they hoped would be included in the Roadmap. Among these were the request that the Center of Africana Studies (CAS) be made an independent department and the proposal to have a distribution requirement in cultural competency. Neither of these demands were fully addressed by the Roadmap.

"The current Roadmap talks about increasing funding [for the CAS], but [the BSU is] asking for more autonomy in selecting faculty," Payne explained. "Because they're a center, the faculty have to be approved by individual departments, meaning that departments with majority white faculty members, whose specialties are not Black Studies, get to decide whether someone's academic contributions to Black Studies are worthy."

Onyejiaka argued that by having a more diverse faculty, students will gain a more comprehensive education.

"We learn from what people say, but we also learn from their experiences," Onyejiaka said. "When you meet someone from a different background than you, they can expand your percep-

tion of the world."

The cultural competency distribution detailed in the list of demands would require all students to take a class on modern and historical prejudice and inequality. Payne argued that this requirement would increase open-mindedness in the student body.

"The University has been unnaturally hostile to this idea," Payne said. "One of the key ways to start addressing racism is to educate the student body, and we can't do that if the administration doesn't require some sort of cultural competency course."

Payne agreed that ignorance about diversity and inclusion can be detrimental to a college campus.

"The current environment is toxic, meaning that when you're a person of color, it's not mentally healthy to be at a primarily white institution and have to face people who don't understand what you're going through and who have internalized white supremacy and racism every day," Payne said.

Not all students believe that the University has failed to provide instruction in diversity and inclusivity. Osiris Mancera, outreach coordinator of the Organización Latina Estudiantil (OLE), spoke positively of the University's recent efforts in diversity education.

"The school has had various workshops, guest speakers and discussions about race and culture

which really has permitted students who come from places where these topics are unknown to become engaged and curious," Mancera wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

For Mancera, this widening of student perspectives is vital to feeling welcome on campus.

"I feel most fearful being around close-minded people who are apathetic to the issues that matter to me and to people like me," Mancera wrote.

"We learn from what people say, but we also learn from their experiences."

— TIFFANY

ONYEJIAKA, BSU PRESIDENT

its implementation.

"Even though some parts of the Roadmap on Diversity are not entirely substantive, it does show that effort was put into this Roadmap and that the university leadership has responded... to the concerns of students," Cui wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Now whether their written words will actually become initiatives for inclusions has yet to be determined."

Onyejiaka also agreed that the Roadmap is an important first step, but still stresses the need of improvement.

"Do I think Hopkins will get to where it needs to be in the next few years? I can't say that," Onyejiaka said. "But I think they're moving in the direction to need to be, because they have to."

Report measures faculty diversity

FACULTY, FROM A1
 Engineering remained at nine percent.

However, women are better represented in junior ranks, such as assistant or associate professorship positions. The report also showed a higher percentage of minority and URM faculty in assistant or associate professor positions, indicating that the University has been hiring more diverse faculty in junior ranks.

In Nov. 2015, the University launched a \$25 million Faculty Diversity Initiative (FDI). The five-year plan established new guidelines for recruiting and hiring minority and female faculty, oversight of candidate lists, increased funding for postdoc fellowships, campus stays by minority scholars and unconscious bias training for members of faculty search committees. Following the FDI, the University has announced that it will hire 30 URM faculty members for the 2016-17 year.

Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Stephen Gange noted that the University is not imposing hiring quotas. The report, instead, aims to make faculty composition better reflect student diversity at Hopkins.

"This is a very smart approach. Some universities target metrics off the bat before they have foundations that they can build on. We're recruiting people who can be a part of the culture," Gange said.

According to the most recent data from the Office of the Registrar, 19 percent of students in the Class of 2019 were URM, 21 percent were Asian and

49 percent of all undergraduates are women. In contrast, Hopkins faculty was eight percent URM, 22 percent Asian and 42 percent women.

The University's last faculty diversity initiative, Mosaic, was taken in 2008. The \$5 million, five-year plan resulted in little to no net gains for URM or women faculty members, which the Report on Faculty Composition revealed. This concern was later addressed in the University's guiding document on diversity, the Roadmap on Diversity and Inclusion.

"Because faculty hiring decisions are shaped by formal and informal practices that vary across the university and can disadvantage diverse candidates, we must have in place a university-wide set of recruiting standards. We must look beyond usual and familiar networks for top-tier candidates and tackle more forthrightly the biases — conscious and unconscious — that can affect the search process," the Roadmap wrote.

Interim Vice Provost and Chief Diversity Officer James Page commended the University for its united efforts toward improving transparency in the diversity initiative.

"The information provided gives a very intimate view as you get an inside look at data across each department and the school," Page said. "Some institutions would refrain or shy away from releasing such information."

Page also spoke about the increased accountability the report would provide, elaborating that it showed the University's serious commitment to reform and change.

"Changes to the existing system should not be viewed as our instituting a numerical quota," he said. "At Hopkins, we are trying to set up an institutionalized process, and our hope is that this becomes the way we conduct our searches going forward."

Students responded to the FDI with mixed views. Sophomore Dong Ho Shin stated that although faculty diversity did indeed seem to be lacking, but the problem did not largely concern him as long as the professors taught well and were polite.

"If they use that money to scout for other professors, I don't want quality to be lowered because they want a balance of races and genders," Shin said.

Freshman Katie Raja, however, explained that for students, like herself, who come from a more diverse environment, the first impression of Hopkins professors can be slightly off-putting.

"It's easy to connect to them when they are the same ethnicity as you are," Raja said. "Where I come from in California is very diverse. It's kind of odd, but it doesn't really do anything."

Sophomore Clarissa Chen elaborated that faculty diversity is not something on most students' minds, but that students would develop an increased consciousness with institutional reforms.

"It seems like most people are white or not people of color," Chen said. "It's not something we think about on a daily basis, but if we get more diverse faculty, people will begin to notice it."

New student organization advocates for anti-poverty initiative



COURTESY OF NANCY WANG

Students painted words associated with poverty outside Levering.

By NANCY WANG
 For *The News-Letter*

Nourish International, a student movement that partners with communities to make a lasting impact on extreme poverty, recently established a new chapter of its organization on the Hopkins campus. The organization runs business ventures to raise awareness for issues of international development.

Sophomore Brianna So formed the Hopkins chapter of Nourish to explore and raise student awareness for the international development, sustainability, partnership and social entrepreneurship.

So explained that she hopes the organization plans will not only build a lasting impact for impoverished populations, but also empower students and communities to lead that change.

"On campus, there's not much dialogue about

these kinds of issues," So said. "We're not just raising awareness for our organization but hoping to get people involved and more aware of these issues. We want to spark conversations, have people ask what [Nourish] stands for and why we are doing this."

So believes that Nourish takes a unique, student-centered approach, which sets it apart from other service initiatives. Nourish students partner with communities who lack the necessary funds and resources for development projects to help them realize their entrepreneurial vision to eradicate poverty.

"Nourish has a different approach to service work abroad," she said. "It promotes the idea that students are the way to move forward."

So explained the inspiration behind her decision to launch the organization on campus, particu-

larly citing her interest in international affairs.

"I actually heard about it by chance through my high school counselor," she said. "I told her that I was interested in studying international relations... and she put me in contact with someone who works in the international office [of Nourish]."

The organization's first event of the year, Paint Out Poverty, took place on the Levering Courtyard, Wednesday, Sept. 28. Paint Out Poverty invited students to pick up a paintbrush and paint words associated with poverty alleviation on a poster. The first five people to use pre-determined words won Chipotle gift cards.

So described the logistics behind Paint Out Poverty, and the way their organization encouraged students to get involved.

"For our ventures, our members volunteer to be chairs and they're the primary ones in charge of it," she said. "Paint Out Poverty was planned and led by two of our members who stepped up to become venture chairs. So even though the executive board provides the support and work plan, all our members are actively participating and become leaders through it."

Junior Tracy Chen appreciated the Paint Out Poverty event for its innovative approach to tackling poverty in the community.

"This event is really

creative and cool in that it brings up concepts of what comes to mind about poverty," Chen said. "In terms of Nourish itself, they are very relevant and significant to discussion and the Baltimore community. I think they're doing very important work."

Freshman Megha Andrews also commented that poverty is often an overlooked issue in the community, and that Nourish was doing the necessary work to bring important dialogues onto campus.

"Poverty is an issue that's very common in this area, but people don't really address it because you kind of forget that it's there," Andrews said. "I think that it's really cool just to have something that specifically brings poverty into attention here on campus."

Freshman Brandon Lien commended Nourish for the work they were doing on the Hopkins campus.

"Nourish is a great club because they are making a real impact on the community," Lien wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Their relationship with the community is really unique in comparison with other charity-based clubs."

Freshman Sudgie Ma echoed Lien's sentiments, adding that the organization's international appeal made it particularly unique.

"I think Nourish is cool

and can perform well," Ma said. "I really like the mission, and it's definitely a good cause that benefits both students and people abroad."

Although Nourish is a new organization on campus, So has big aspirations and a clear vision for the future. Out of sixty other collegiate chapters nationwide, So named the Miami University of Oxford's division as one she wished to emulate.

"They've been around for approximately six years, but they've raised over \$20,000 to allocate towards community projects," she said.

So also spoke to the future events Nourish is planning for the year, including Repurposing Imperfect Produce Effectively (RIPE) and Hunger Lunch.

"With RIPE, or Repurposing Imperfect Produce Effectively, we plan to partner with the Farmers Market or a grocery store to collect ugly food to make into smoothies that can be sold on campus," So said. "This way, we can reduce food waste while raising money for our project at the same time. Meanwhile, the Hunger Lunch program would involve partnering with Chipotle or Tamber's. By buying rice and beans at a discounted rate, Hunger Lunch would provide students with other dining options while having them understand and experience what people experiencing poverty are living on every day."

NEWS & FEATURES

Race Forum pushes for racial justice in American curriculum



COURTESY OF EDA INCEKARA

JHU Forums on Race in America invited speakers to discuss race relations in America.

By **SOPHIE JOHNSON**
For *The News-Letter*

The JHU Forums on Race in America presented a panel on “The Next 50 Years: Black Power’s Afterlife and the Struggle for Social Justice,” Tuesday, Sept. 27 in Shriver Hall.

The discussion panelists were Robin D.G. Kelley, the chair of U.S. History and African American Studies at UCLA; Dayvon Love, the co-founder of Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, a Baltimore-based think tank which promotes the public policy interests of black

people; and Salamishah Tillet, an associate professor of English and Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and the co-founder of A Long Walk Home, a national non-profit that uses art to inspire young people to end violence against women. Nathan Connolly, associate professor of history at Hopkins, moderated the panel discussion.

Panelists examined the future of anti-racist politics, possibilities for anti-racist school curriculums, the creation of a critical citizenship and the effects of

event fifty years after the establishment of the Black Panther Party in Oakland in 1966 as of October,” Connolly said. “One of the things that’s often looked over with the Black Panther Party is that they were very dedicated to empowering working class people across color lines. So what I’d like to look at for a moment is how there can be a space for consensus politics throughout our fight against anti-black racism.”

Love argued that distinct black intellectual traditions are an essential part of the fight

against racism.

“I think unfortunately that many of us are socialized to understand activism as merely a response to structures of oppression, which in part it is,” Love said. “But activism should also be about the importance of building independent, black institutions that can negotiate their status in a largely white, patriarchal society. These institutions should have the ability to promote the intellectual work of people of African descent that does not rely on the intellectual traditions of European scholarship.”

These independent institutions are essential components in the creation of long-term social justice movements, according to Love.

“It’s really important that we focus on rediscovering the intellectual traditions of people of African descent, which are often blocked out of the public mainstream, so we can determine the kinds of intellectual work that can actually contribute to building the kinds of institutions that can produce sustainable activist movements,” Love said.

“We need to build an infrastructure for now that can be passed on to future generations, so they can use the sustainable institutions built by this intellectual tradition as a template for engaging in issues as a collective.”

Connolly asked the panelists to discuss the limitations of multiculturalism in education.

“One of the things that’s very clear now at college campuses around the country is that the old post-1970s version of multiculturalism has not actually served anyone,” Connolly said. “There’s something about the kind of institution that was built in the wake of the ethnic revival of the 1970s that never got quite around to answering the problem of how to create concrete social change. So one of the questions I wanted to ask you all to think about is how do we in fact create an anti-racist curriculum and not just a curriculum for diverse multiculturalist issues but one that actually takes as a civic service and a duty its obligation to create the conditions whereby antiracism can leave the

school and become a part of society?”

In his response, Kelley stated that a discussion and critique of power is an essential component of any anti-racist curriculum.

“One of the limits of liberal multiculturalism is the way in which it makes power absent. It celebrates differences and identifying differences, but not being productive with these differences, because productiveness in the sense of activism is always about a reaction to power,” Kelley said. “I don’t actually have to make up stuff, because you can go to Mississippi middle schools and see the way they develop curriculums that ask questions about why some people are poor and others aren’t and how that relates to the development of America. These are the questions that have historically been ignored, and we cannot claim to have an anti-racist curriculum if we push questions of power structure off the table.”

Tillet discussed how anti-racist curriculums should encourage students to have movements of self-discovery about activism.

“In my senior year of high school I read two books: Malcolm X’s autobiography and Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*,” Tillet said. “Those books gave me my own language and my own way to then diagnose and understand the two major events that were happening in the country at that time, which were Rodney King and the Clarence Thomas trial. So that was my ‘aha!’ moment.”

In her own teaching and activism, Tillet aims to allow students to have moments of realization that are similar to her own.

“You have to have a moment of epiphany, you have to have a moment of self-radicalization and then you have to move from being a witness to being an agent of change or an activist on the frontlines,” Tillet said.

Attendees responded positively to the panel discussion. Allison Gunter, an Urban Teachers Lecturer at the School of Education, initially took interest in the event because of the current climate of race relations in America.

“I wanted to see what the experts in the field had to say,” Gunter said. “I found it encouraging. I thought they had a lot of positive things to say and shared a lot of insight that got me thinking about those next steps and those next critical conversations I need to have moving forward. Since I teach coursework, these are conversations that I want to have with my students to push them to be more active in these spaces that the panelists were talking about.”

Freshman Melissa Eustache, a member of the Black Student Union, appreciated the panelists’ candor about race relations.

“I was part of a general student body meeting for the Black Student Union, and they talked about [the forum]. I was like, ‘This is super interesting,’ and I wanted to come,” Eustache said. “I liked that it was a very candid conversation about race and about the kinds of contemporary problems that often are overlooked, and I liked that it brought [these problems] to the forefront of the conversation.”

Prof. talks humanity’s role in climate change

By **KATHERINE LOGAN**
For *The News-Letter*

Professor Peter K. Haff discussed the impact of humanity on climate change in Hodson Hall on Sept. 22 as part of the Critical Climate Thinking Lecture Series, hosted by The Alexander Grass Humanities Institute. Haff is a Professor Emeritus at Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment. His talk was titled “Do humans cause climate change? The Earth’s perspective.”

Professor Haff began his talk by explaining his role in the climate change dialogue.

“I’d like to try to give you a geologist’s point of view of how humans and climate change might be connected without talking too much about either one of them,” Haff said.

Haff’s work centers around the idea that we are living in an era when human activity plays a significant role in shaping our environment, which he calls the Anthropocene.

During his talk he focused on how the humanities and the sciences must collaborate to face the challenges posed by climate change.

“One conclusion I’ve come to is that climate change, even though it’s generated in part by technological activities, does not really have a purely technological solution,” Haff said. “In the end we have to look at humanistic considerations to deal with the problem of climate change, and other problems... that represent additional challenges to humans.”

Freshman Alex Walinkas thought Haff’s connection between sciences and humanities was particularly salient.

“I think it’s great that the humanities are coming together with the sciences to convey the broad-reaching consequences of

climate change. In order to adequately solve this problem, we need to use both perspectives,” Walinkas wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Another central idea in Haff’s talk was the idea that in addition to the atmosphere, lithosphere, biosphere and hydrosphere, another sphere, the technosphere, should be considered. He cited its similar qualities with the other spheres.

“I’d like to propose a new sphere that’s much younger, which I call the technosphere, which is comprised of all the humans in the world and all of the technological artifacts and technological systems,” Haff said.

Sophomore Della Xu thought the technosphere concept made Haff’s talk particularly interesting.

“I think what made his talk different was that he introduced the idea of the technosphere being included when talking about the environment and climate change,” she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. “It is... only through having a balanced and sustainable system that [includes] all of the above can we combat climate change.”

Haff argued for a more sustainable solution, which would be for the development of new technologies to be paced out.

Professor and Director of the German Subdivision of GRLL Rochelle Tobias defined the series’ titular concept of “critical climate thinking.”

“Critical climate thinking is based on the assumption that we need to change the direction of our thought and view the natural world not only as an object outside us but as something in us. It builds on the insight that whatever we do to tackle climate change has global effects,” she said. “It refers to the complex causal network in which almost all phenomena.”

Panelists share homeless experiences

By **SIRI TUMMALA**
For *The News-Letter*

The Habitat for Humanity Club at Hopkins hosted a panel from the Baltimore Area Faces of Homelessness Speakers Bureau at Gilman Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 27.

The three presenters were members of the community who had previously experienced homelessness. They shared their individual stories of what led them to homelessness, their experiences while being homeless and how they eventually overcame it.

The first speaker, Damian Haussling, spoke about his unjust jail experience that led to his homelessness. Haussling pursued a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree, but he was arrested at his alma mater under the false pretense of trespassing.

“I was not doing much to make much money, so that arrest caused homelessness,” Haussling said. “Because even though it was something really small they treated me like I was some sort of strange hermit homeless person who was sleeping on campus.”

Haussling also described the difficulty of trying to find a job while he was homeless.

“Homeless shelters are emergency places where you can only use the bed for the night, and you have to take whatever you have with you to leave,” he said. “When I came to D.C., I could not come into a job with two huge bags on my back trying to get them to hire me. It was crazy.”

The second speaker, John Gathier, became homeless after quitting a job that had treated him unfairly. He touched on how he was mentally and physically affected by homelessness.

“I changed myself,” Gathier said. “I had to learn how to sit still and not do the things I was doing. I had to get myself together.”

The third speaker, A spoke about her unique experiences being a white female who had experienced homelessness. She

refrained from stating her full name because she did not want her experiences to be widely publicized. She became homeless after losing her job with the State of Maryland legal department due to health problems.

“Once you’re homeless though, you come into it with a different mentality,” A said. “You always feel like that other shoe is about to drop. You’re waiting for something bad to happen to you.”

All of the speakers emphasized the need to educate people about homelessness.

“We need to let people know homelessness can happen to anybody.”

— JOHN GATHIER, PANELIST

A spoke about what helped her get out of homelessness.

“You have to be your own advocate. As great as a lot of the programs are, you are still going to get pushed back. You’re still going to fall through the cracks and come up against challenges,” she said.

All four of them addressed the current state of homelessness in Baltimore. They agreed that Baltimore is spending tax money on investments rather than trying to end homelessness.

“Baltimore City is giving 600 million dollars to the owner of Under Armour, Kevin Plank,” A said. “They are cutting services to the free City Circulator and the water taxi to put in kayaks.”

Freshman Dalton Chu spoke about how the event helped shed a different light on his academics.

“I am an economics major so we are studying how the overall macroeconomics side of where these companies are investing and what the governments are exam-

ining,” Chu said. “We are not seeing this side of the homeless people who are evicted because the government profits more from investing.”

The speakers also explained how the numbers reported by the government and Baltimore City as being homeless are skewed.

Freshman Eun Ah Jung remarked that she did not realize how many people are homeless.

“Even couch surfers are technically homeless, but it is not considered by the

census as being homeless,” Jung said. “I did not realize that so many people are homeless because the numbers say not that many people are homeless.”

Sophomore Kate Carosella,

who is the co-chair of fundraising for Habitat for Humanity, explained the importance of understanding the past experiences of those who were homeless.

“Our club’s goal is to provide affordable housing, and this is the result of the lack of affordable housing,” Carosella said. “Hearing the other side gives cause to what we do. It hopefully motivated our members to go out and do more and also helped to start the conversation.”

Junior Grant Welby, the secretary for Habitat for Humanity, explained the reasons behind their decision to host the event.

“The reason why we hosted this event was to raise awareness among our student body,” Welby said. “A lot of students here do not know what affordable housing is, why it is a problem and how it relates to homelessness. At Habitat we are focused on fighting the affordable housing crisis, and this connects deeply to our mission as an organization.”

NEWS & FEATURES

LGBT alumni discuss history of discrimination



Members of JHU GALA participated in the Second National March on Washington D.C. for Lesbian and Gay Rights on Oct. 11, 1987.

LGBT, FROM A1 organization was identification with other students at Hopkins," Horowitz said.

Einhorn, class of 1986, who served as the president of GALA, spoke about the resistance they encountered with the formation of LAGA. He reached out to the Alumni Association and explained that there was no existing organization for LGBT+ alumni, hoping they would promote their new group.

"They said to me a definitive, unilateral, unequivocal no," Einhorn said. "I was flabbergasted. Even to this day, I'm getting chills because it was so flabbergasting."

With the Alumni Association unwilling to help, he turned to *Johns Hopkins Magazine*. Einhorn asked them to include a small advertisement promoting their group, but received another unwavering "no." However, Einhorn and Horowitz did not let this resistance get in their way.

"We were not beaten down," Einhorn said. "While I was told two unequivocal 'no's' from people in power, it didn't stop us. Life's full of obstacles. They said no, and I moved right along as if they had said yes."

Einhorn remembered specific examples of the individual impact their group had on the greater Hopkins community.

"A gentleman from Texas said, 'Knowing that [LAGA] exists is so heartening to me and so earth-shattering that this is happening in my lifetime. Thank you,'" Einhorn said. "The impact, especially for the older generation, was such a great thing."

The new LAGA members marched in annual gay pride parades.

"We ended up having about 200 members. And how did we promote it? We got ourselves a banner and marched in the annual gay pride in Bal-

timore, Washington D.C. and New York City," Einhorn said.

Einhorn thinks they could have helped many more if the Alumni Association had lent their support.

"There are a lot of people who could have been involved had these people in positions of power made a difference," Einhorn said.

Horowitz recalled far fewer participants among undergraduates on campus.

But even with their limited numbers, they were active in the community.

"In the discussion group meetings we'd have about twenty people a week," Horowitz said.

The group helped lobby Baltimore City Council to protect against discrimination.

"The gay and lesbian student group was involved with a lot of lobbying efforts in 1986 to get a gay civil rights bill passed in the Baltimore City Council. It was a law that protected against discrimination in public accommodations and public employers," Horowitz said. "The medical students dressed up in their white coats and went down to City Hall to make the point that there are doctors and students at Johns Hopkins who are going to be affected by this."

GALA successfully helped enact change, both within the local community and the University administration.

"The administration was actually, in many respects, more liberal than the student body," Horowitz said.

However, LGBT+ members of the current Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (DSAGA) board spoke about the difficulties they still face today. Specifically, they say that the University has dragged its feet on vital policy updates.

Some members of the DSAGA executive board

spoke anonymously because they are not fully out to everyone in their lives.

"I fear that the people running the school don't care as much," the DSAGA Publicity Chair said. "They made up some excuse as to why they didn't want to change the bathroom signs to be gender-neutral, which is frustrating."

DSAGA board members agreed that the social attitude toward LGBT+ issues has definitely improved since the 1980s.

However, the DSAGA Director of Operations said that there is definitely room for improvement.

"I think there's actually quite a large contingent of people who are explicitly hostile," they said. "The modern cultural zeitgeist leans more toward left values at the moment, but they're ready to crop back up again as soon as the cultural zeitgeist in the country shifts. The overall progressive leaning of colleges in general prevents hateful people from becoming known."

Members of DSAGA say that it is as meaningful as GALA was in the 1980s because it provides a safe space to connect with other LGBT+ students. The Publicity Chair believes that the community today can cast a wider net.

"Here, I feel like we're in a position where we can focus more on [sexual and gender] identities," they said.

Einhorn acknowledged that other identities and orientations were significantly underrepresented in GALA.

Horowitz recalls an awareness of some other sexualities, but agrees that other sexual and gender identities were not as prevalent within the organization.

He recalled difficulty in engaging with women because they were uncomfortable in a male-dominated space.

"I won't lie, the men dominated things for a long time," he said. "Transgender issues were never discussed. People just didn't talk about it back then, and we certainly didn't have any members who were

known to us to be transgender."

Horowitz imagined it would have been terrifying to be out as transgender during that time.

"Things have changed so much for the better now," Horowitz said.

However, DSAGA members said that they still do not feel comfortable being out in many communities because of the backlash they may face.

They said that Americans today feel as though the struggle of the LGBT+ community ended with the implementation of nationwide marriage equality in 2015, which reduces society-wide interest in the ongoing problems faced by members of this community.

The DSAGA Publicity Chair emphasized that the issues faced by the LGBT+ community are not over.

"Here, I think we're doing better," they said, referring to the safe space offered by DSAGA meetings. "But there are also places where it's not better."

DSAGA Treasurer JoJo Castellanos spoke about the importance of having support groups for LGBT+ students on campus and what it has personally meant for him to be a part of DSAGA.

"My [high] school didn't really have a space where it was okay to be queer so it was really hard for me to find a queer community," Castellanos wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Once I came to Hopkins, it was the first time I really felt that I wasn't alone in respect to my identity because there were other people who were visible. DSAGA was really the first time that I saw a community of peers, who were around my age, who were comfortable being out and being themselves."

Castellanos urged students to take advantage of the resources at the University that can help provide a sense of community and inclusion.

"This is why... I reach out to even more students who might be struggling or questioning. Even though our members may come sporadically, I hope that they know that they are always welcome to come back and that this is a space specifically for them," Castellanos wrote. "I know as an executive board we are as inclusive as possible with our events, too, so that nobody feels left out in regards to different intersections of their identities, whether it be queer-related or not."

Oral historian stresses importance of dialogue

By ALLY HARDEBECK
For *The News-Letter*

Oral historian and author Alan Wieder delivered a talk, "Studs Terkel: Politics, Culture, But Mostly Conversation" at Red Emma's Bookstore and Coffeehouse on Thursday, Sept. 22nd.

During his talk, Wieder drew parallels between Terkel's political moment and current contemporary topics, including those of strained race relations in the U.S. and the upcoming 2016 presidential election.

"I don't think people generally know how political Studs Terkel was," Wieder said. "How he was totally dedicated his entire life to fighting white supremacy, not just in America but also in South Africa and other places."

Wieder explained that Terkel's political views were largely influenced by his childhood. Born in 1912, Terkel grew up in a Chicago hotel owned by his parents, his early years put him in contact with people from all walks of life.

"He learned about politics and he learned about conversation starting in the lobby of this men's hotel," Wieder said. "Some of [the patrons of the hotel] were socialists, some of them Communists, some were totally right-wing, some were religious. He loved to listen to them fight and debate."

Terkel began his career as a disc jockey playing the blues on his radio show in Chicago. He was blacklisted during the McCarthy era for not signing a loyalty pledge. Suddenly unemployed, Terkel went into politics. He eventually made his return to radio, spending the next 45 years interviewing everyone from actors to authors. The show became renowned for Terkel's in-depth treatment of his interviewees.

"He really believed in conversation," Wieder said. "He didn't believe in chatting, and he didn't believe in conversation for the sake of conversation. He believed that you had to have conversation and debate if you are going to actually have a democratic society."

Terkel transitioned careers when he turned 57. He began writing books, which made him famous in the U.S. He documented the March on Washington and apartheid in South Africa.

Explaining his relationship with Terkel, Wieder felt his academic goals aligned with the famous historian's career. "I went to do a doctorate in the seventies in Ohio State and this type of work wasn't really acknowledged in academia," Wieder said. "It just so happened to coincide with when Studs Terkel started to be a writer as opposed to just a radio guy. People loved his books, not just officially as an academic. I was lucky, and had a committee that liked his work, so it was the foundation for me being able to do this

kind of work."

Wieder explained that the idea to write Terkel's biography had always loomed in the background, though he didn't begin the book itself until later on in his life.

"I didn't mean I would do a book on him, but starting in the early '90s, friends told me it seemed like I was starting to write it in my head," he said. "I didn't start until 2013 to really write it."

On the history and process behind his work, Wieder provided insight on his extensive experiences as an oral historian. Wieder interviewed over 100 people for his biography of Terkel.

"I've used interviews to help make the story about something or somebody else, but the process is still the same," Wieder said. "You do an interview, you listen to the recording, you have someone transcribe it, and then the work begins again because you might move things around, you might delete a lot of it. When we talk to each other it's not chronological so something that happened in 2005 might be at the beginning of the interview. The follow up with the same kind of concept might be at the end of the interview so you move things around. You never change the words. You don't take words out, but you work at it to make it a story."

Wieder also emphasized the importance of listening. "The interviewing is in and of itself something," he said. "The key is that you have to listen. I've done interviews where I was horrible, where, 'oh my God why did I talk so much?,' but you have to listen. You try to keep people on theme, but you want them to talk."

Wieder has been touring a number of cities to promote his book. He has spoken at events in Chicago, Milwaukee, Cleveland and Portland, among others. His tour continues through October.

"Studs Terkel is from Chicago so I just did three events in Chicago and friends said it was like being in Studs Terkel's universe," Wieder said. "The people that were there, and a lot of old people came and there were young students so it was absolutely fabulous. People I interviewed for the book were there and I had them talk."

Wieder elaborated on several different future projects he had in mind, though nothing has been set in stone. "I have a million projects, which means I don't have any right now," he said. "There's one thing that I think about doing with Studs but I probably won't and that's because there's a website called studsterkel.org and they're in the process of getting all of his radio interviews digitized. He interviewed so many people and they were so diverse. It might be interesting to do some kind of thematic book using the interviews."

Errata: Sept. 22 Edition

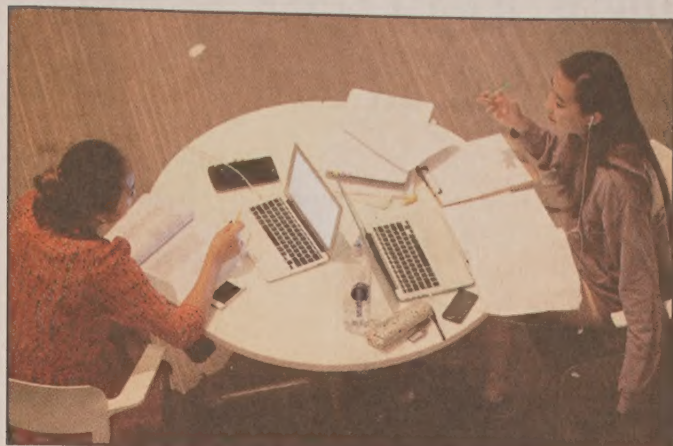
In the Sept 22., 2016 edition of *The News-Letter*, a quote in the article "A second chance for former inmates" was attributed to Sam Randall, but Charlie Wang said it.

In the same issue it was previously stated that the Baltimore Gas and Electric is a part of Exxon. It is actually a part of Exelon.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

New second-year program hopes to provide support for sophomores



FILE PHOTO

During sophomore year, students spend long nights studying in Brody Learning Commons.

SYE FROM A1
support as they transition to their school but that structure and programming has tended to drop off considerably for sophomores, so those who are still struggling may feel a lack of support," Torres wrote.

Rutledge hopes that the SYE Program can take on such a supporting role to help students.

"There's no shock that Hopkins students are stressed. You're at a very rigorous institution," Rutledge said. "What are some things that I can do within the SYE Program to help make sure that while that stress is a constant, that it is not consuming you? Because when stress starts to consume you and your mental health starts to consume you in negative ways, you can't be a full and productive student."

Rutledge referenced data which supports the existence of a "sophomore slump," adding it needs to be addressed more directly.

"We know from national data that the 'sophomore slump' has been around for a while and so naturally there should be some additional component of a student undergraduate career that looks at that and addresses that," Rutledge said. "It is unfair for us to continue to let them be in this slump and not have any type of outlet for that slump."

Other than social engagement and career preparatory events that the SYE is implementing to tackle issues of social anxiety and academic confusion, Rutledge is also working with the Counseling Center to identify and address more of the immediate stressors of sophomores.

For example, the SYE Program is considering providing information about apartment hunting, lease signing, commuting from different apartments and picking roommates in order to alleviate the stress sophomores feel before moving off-campus for their junior year.

Building Community

Rutledge observed that there is a clear disparity between the amount of resources allocated to freshmen and sophomores across college campuses in the U.S.

Having worked closely with students transitioning into college at the University of Washington in St. Louis and Emory University, Rutledge has been drawing on his prior experiences in his new job.

"I think that a lot of the time, you get all of these resources your first year as you transition, and then nationally, you see the feeling of being neglected going into and throughout your second year," Rutledge said.

At Hopkins specifically, pre-orientation programs, first year mentors, freshman seminars and B'More Intercession courses all contribute specifically to easing freshman into the college experience. Rutledge believes that students should continue to feel a strong sense of community inclusion and engagement in their second year.

"Some of the students I talked to here at Hopkins have said that they kind of put their heads down and bear with it until they get to their junior year. That's not the kind of community I want here at Hopkins,"

I want them to feel that they are part of a community that values them and wants them to be there."

The SYE Program is working to create such an environment through social events. The program is also partnering with other Hopkins organizations to foster sophomore class interaction at annual campus events like Hoptoberfest.

"We're looking at doing smaller programmatic pieces at Hopkins traditions like Hoptoberfest. We're looking to partner with the HOP to have a second year specific program or being present at something that's already happening during that series," Rutledge said.

The planned social events have had a strong turnout, with up to 300 sophomore students in attendance. However, the events have garnered mixed reviews from the students who participated.

Sophomore Liresa Hearn felt that the Second Year Sunday Brunch was underwhelming.

"They're finding new ways of creating events with us and keeping us engaged on campus, but I feel like it's not the greatest idea just because of the limited options at Nolan's," Hearn said. "The brunch was sad because they hyped the brunch like it was supposed to be this amazing event, but it was basically just a small breakfast."

Sophomore Jaycee Yao, on the other hand, enjoyed the event. She praised the program's intentions, adding that they were developing multifaceted ways for sophomore students to develop community.

"I really like how the

program is trying to branch out to the student body and trying to link us together with an advisor," Yao said. "I also like the social events that SYE created, such as the SYE brunch, for it is a great opportunity to bond us sophomores, as well as others together. It's quite innovative and yet thoughtful. I went to the brunch and I really liked it because I got to eat a lot of good food and got to meet other sophomores."

Yao also suggested that the SYE Program plan more social engagement activities off-campus.

"To me, having more bonding activities sounds good," she said. "We could all go to Six Flags as a class, do volunteer work or something."

Career Exploration

While peer institutions have started implementing programs for sophomores that are similar in structure and purpose to their first-year experience agendas, the SYE Program at Hopkins is placing more emphasis on tailoring its events and functions to the specific needs of individual second-year students.

"In your second year, you are still dealing with the transition into a new space," Rutledge said. "You're dealing with academic clutter from everything around picking a major to potentially thinking that your major may not be the right decision. You're starting to worry or at least have in the back of your mind, post-graduation. I think for your second year, really being able to start catering those experiences to the needs of those students is important."

Rutledge further elaborated that having a robust career services system in place would greatly benefit sophomore students.

"One student may not need help from the Career Center to write their résumé because they already have that worked out, but may need to get connected with academic support services because they're interested in time management. It's about making sure students are getting what they need at that point in time," he said.

Additionally, the SYE Program is looking to partner with the JHU Hop-In Program, which helps students from marginalized communities transition into college, in order to provide a net-

working seminar and event to students who need the skills and experience.

"Free" BBQ Backlash

The new SYE Program began the year with a BBQ at Nolan's. The event attracted over 600 sophomores. While it garnered wide participation, students pointed out several problems that gave them a negative impression of SYE. The BBQ, which was advertised as "free entry with meal plan," had students with meal plans pay for food.

Sophomore Vyshnavi Anandan criticized SYE for the mishap.

"I'm on the 1400 [dining dollar] meal plan, so I only went because we all thought it was free. I think that the biggest issue was the false advertising. They should either clarify the advertisements or actually make events free," she said.

Aaron Rutledge acknowledged this mishap as a mistake on his part.

"I realized that caused some confusion around some of the marketing and actual implementation of the event, so we've

tried to address that with the brunches and things like that moving forward. That is something that I will take ownership of, I have apologized for and will continue to apologize for. It was not a great way to start the year and so, as we continue to develop this program, that feedback is valuable to me as I continue to figure out what works and doesn't work with this program."

SYE has addressed this issue by providing free Insomnia Cookies during Rutledge's office hours and changing event advertisements to clarify that entry into Nolan's will always require a meal swipe, dining dollars or a meal pass.

Students also noticed that their peers who were not on meal plans were allowed into the BBQ for free.

Sophomore Morgan

Balster expressed her discontent with the unequal treatment.

"I paid for my meal plan, so a meal swipe is worth money to me, so I think it's ridiculous that I had to pay for the SYE barbecue while people without meal plans got in for free," she said.

Rutledge explained that he is working hard to ensure that future events at Nolan's make use of fair practices, but also that they are accessible to as many students as possible.

"I want to make sure that any student that wants to come to an event at Nolan's can come," Rutledge said. "For students that don't have meal plans, we're working with Residential Life, JHUnions and Dining to figure out a way to either supplement or help pay, or maybe potentially have those students just buy a meal pass for specific events to make it more equitable."

While the SYE Program is trying to provide sophomores with the instruments they need for a more successful and less stressful second year, sophomore Timothy Lee believes that everything still depends on the students themselves

to make the most out of these resources.

"I think it's a nice gesture," Lee said. "However, I feel people who want to get something out of their sophomore year and be involved will and those who don't won't."

Rutledge emphasized that SYE is open to students' suggestions and criticism alike. He encouraged students to speak to him during his office hours to ensure that the SYE Program could engage as many students as possible in helpful ways in the future.

"My hope is that we can find a way for you to engage... on this campus," he said. "So SYE is looking at that: what are we missing when it comes to social engagement on this campus and community building on this campus, and what is the fix and immediate solution that we can create."

"We know from national data that sophomore slump has been around for awhile."

— AARON
RUTLEDGE,
ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR FOR SYE

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VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

The best Panic! at the Disco songs out there



Juliana Veracka
The Playlist

It's bad to make a playlist full of songs by the same artist? Too bad! When Panic! at the Disco announced their *Death of a Bachelor* tour (I can't go, but I'm so excited) and released the music video for "LA Devotee" (it's quite something) I went into full Panic! mode (ha) and listened to all of their music. That's why this week I'll be sharing my favorite songs with you, album by album.

I encourage everyone to listen to all of their music if you haven't already — there are some absolute gems that I won't mention here because I've chosen to limit myself. But without further ado....

Album: *A Fever You Can't Sweat Out*

This is the boys' debut album from way back in 2005. I say boys because back then the band actually had more than one member; it was made up of Ryan Ross, Spencer Smith, Brent Wilson — later replaced by Jon Walker — and Brendon Urie. They were so young back then.

Songs:

"I Write Sins Not Tragedies": I know, I know. I chose the song that literally everyone knows. But everyone knows it for a reason. It's fun, it's nostalgic and we can all sing along to it — what's not to love? If you haven't heard this one in a while, I say

you dust it off and take it for a spin.

"Build God Then We'll Talk": Okay, so this one was my favorite from this album for a while. It's sort of dark and ironic and it's got some killer orchestral bits and at one point it references "My Favorite Things" (from *The Sound of Music*). It's just... listen to it.

Album: *Pretty. Odd.*

This is hands down my favorite Panic! album. Released in 2009, it's a departure from the last one — less dark and edgy, it's folksy and nostalgic. It includes a lot of references to the sun, the moon, the sea, and the summer. If you can only listen to one Panic! album in its entirety, make it this one.

Songs:

"That Green Gentleman (Things Have Changed)": I don't know why it's called that, but it doesn't really matter because I. Love. This. Song. I can't think about it without wanting to sing. It's all about change and growth and can be relatable on so many levels.

"Northern Downpour": So. Good. So good. Wow. This one is slow and gorgeous. It makes me sad because it reminds me that this was the last album before the band split in half. For some reason, this song fills me to the brim with nostalgia. This entire album. Yes.

Album: *Vices & Virtues*

So it's on to 2011 with another great one, this time without Ryan Ross

and Jon Walker. This one is, again, much different from the last one. I listen to almost every song on here semi-regularly. There are quite a few bonus tracks for this one that are difficult to find anywhere but YouTube (look for "Oh Glory and Bittersweet.")

Songs:

"The Ballad of Mona Lisa": This is probably the most well known song from this album. It's almost reminiscent of "A Fever You Can't Sweat Out," but with more of a... steampunk vibe? Maybe?

Well, at least that's what it looks like in the music video. I guarantee this one will be stuck in your head for days (but it's good

so you won't mind). Great for singing along.

"Hurricane": It was a tough call between this and "Nearly Witches," but in the end I went with one that I feel is one of the most different from "The Ballad of Mona Lisa." It's upbeat and you could probably dance to it — I know I want to every time I hear it. Oh, and you'll be singing this one too.

Album: *Too Weird To Live, Too Rare To Die!*

First of all, I love the name and the cover of this album. A+ for aesthetic. This one's 2013, and it's the one that really got me listening to Panic! at the Disco again. It's the only album to feature bassist Dallan Weekes.

Sadly, it's the last one to feature Spencer Smith. Shout out to the bonus track "All the Boys" that

should've replaced "Girl That You Love" on this album. Find it on YouTube!

Songs:

"This is Gospel": This is the song that led me to really start listening to Panic!. It's beautiful and emotional and I just love it so much. I'm not really sure what else I can say about it. It's one of the better known ones, but if you haven't heard it before I beseech you to check it out.

"Girls/Girls/Boys": I mean, there are so many other great songs on this album, but I just had to go with this one. It's become known to some as a "bisexual anthem," so honestly 'nuf said. I give it a 10/10.

Album: *Death of a Bachelor*

This is the latest album, the one the upcoming tour is for, and the first one with Brendon Urie, and only Brendon Urie, at the helm. Yep, Panic! is a one man band now! Released earlier this year, *Death of a Bachelor* was the first Panic! album to top the charts at number one. I gotta say, Brendon's doing all right on his own.

Songs:

"Don't Threaten Me With A Good Time": This song is crazy from start to finish. It's fast-paced and dance-able and makes you want to run wild and party. It's honestly such a jam; you won't be disappointed. Just don't make me talk about the music video (why, Brendon, why?)

"House of Memories": You know, I really wanted to go with "Hallelujah" or the eponymous "Death of a Bachelor," but for once I decided to go with one a bit less known than the others. "House of Memories" is another one that will stick in your head, but you're gonna to love it.

Why I chose to take Calc III as a freshman



Sudgie Ma
Math Problems

Imagine the descent to Hell is like taking the stairs down to my Calculus III lecture in Remsen 1. And the moment I open the door, I find myself greeted by a crowd of sickly, tortured students I know I belong. As we all mindlessly copy down the endless writing on the chalkboard, there's one thought ringing in the backs of our minds: "Why am I taking this class again?"

It's a valid question. Personally, math is far from being my favorite subject. In fact, it's pretty far down the list — so I do suppose it's weird that I'm taking two math classes my first semester at Hopkins.

The simplest answer is that almost all my high school friends who took BC Calculus are taking Calculus III at their respective colleges so I decided to copy them, and the class Intro to Probability has "420" in the class number...

You think I'm kidding, but I'm not. The number caught my eye, and probability happened to be the one topic in math I actually understood on some instinctual level in high school. My academic advisor actually highly suggested that I not take

Probability, but so far, Calc III has been the real killer here. If Probability is a 400-level course, Calc III feels like a 4000-level one. It's actually astonishing to me that it's only a 200-level course. It's also worth only four credits and yet the homework takes up more time than the rest of my classes combined.

Let's see — it's a math class, but some of the homework exercises are paragraphs long and confusingly worded to the point where my professor even apologized for the latest non-textbook homework exercise she assigned. Even Probability homework problems, which often require a few sentences to set up various scenarios, are still short and to the point. Being a prospective International Studies major, I've had to do my fair share of reading in social studies classes each week, and I'm perfectly fine with that.

But see, math is like a foreign language, and you don't just read paragraphs in a foreign language class without consulting the dictionary every sentence. And unlike normal foreign languages, definitions for math terms only serve to confuse you further.

I definitely understood what a derivative was better before I was taught the formal definition. All the Calc III lectures teach me are how theorems came to be, but I only care about what they do for my homework. (Maybe it all comes down to the fact that I'm not really for the "spirit of discovery" that Hopkins was founded on. Oops.)

I practically live in the Calc or Probability TA's offices and Math Help Room to the point where I should really be paying housing towards Krieger and Whitehead, not Wolman — much like how other Hopkins students' dorms are in Brody or Eisenhower. Ironically, I've actually been late to some of my Calc lectures or section meetings because I've been at the Math Help Room instead.

("Why were you late to the Calc lecture?")

"I was in the Math Help Room."

"Oh, okay. Wait, what?")

I would even argue that it's potentially more helpful to stay there instead of attending class anyway. Having the one-on-one attention prevents me from just dozing off at any second.

After all, you can't just fall asleep when there's someone watching you doing math. That's scary. But when I'm at a Remsen lecture hall, I close my eyes for what seems like a second and — BAM! — I open my eyes and I'm three chalkboards behind in my notes. In my haste, I know I've been copying down some things wrong.

So I'm probably going to be spending even more time at the Math Help Room now. After all, I'm in a bit of a triggy (heh) situation: both the Calc III and Probability midterms are on Oct. 7. I guess you could say I'll have plenty more math problems to come.

The most common questions I get as a HERO member

Emma Lee
Guest Columnist

I've been a member of HERO since last fall and started service in March. I've wanted to be an EMT for a long time — our training equips us to handle critical situations when a lot of people would feel helpless. Plus, learning to keep an even head under pressure goes a long way in life.

Since joining, I've gotten a lot of questions about HERO, so here's some of my personal perspective on frequently asked questions.

First off, I've had people ask me if the new Amnesty Policy is real

and/or effective. If you don't know already, the policy essentially states disciplinary action is not taken against students involved in isolated drug/alcohol-related incidents.

This way, the risk of getting in trouble is not an impeding factor in calling for medical help when you suspect a substance-related problem. As far as I've been told, the policy is pretty solid.

You may have to watch some educational videos on underage drinking, etc., but nothing permanent goes on your record. Note: the policy won't protect students from the police and does not extend to repeated major offenses.

Then there's the awkward thing of dealing with people who want to know about their friend or neighbour who called HERO last night. In case you were not aware, HERO members are not permitted to discuss cases outside of debriefing after a response.

First there's the matter of the law -- HIPAA (Health Information Portability and Accountability Act), which protects patient confidentiality. HIPAA is no f*cking joke; it's serious business.

You can search up HIPAA violation nightmare cases where people get huge fines, face the possibility of prison time, or (more relevantly to Hopkins students), are blacklisted from major medical schools.

Technically, as far as the law goes, we can discuss scenarios as long as the patient is not identified. But think about how small the Hopkins undergrad student body

is. If I told you "male student found unresponsive in AMR II Baker third floor bathroom", chances are you could find out exactly who it was without a whole lot of difficulty. Is it legal to disclose this? Yep. Does it maintain patient privacy? Nope.

A lot of students are aware of the restrictions to what I can say, and will play the classic "yes or no" question game or ask something like "Tell me everything you're allowed to say." Sometimes other people hear the radio dispatch from security, which gives details like location and incident type.

Let me just tell you, it's unfortunate and uncomfortable when protecting the privacy of the patient means I have to be a total conversation killer. The kindest thing you can do is just not to ask. If you do insist on asking me, I will probably be an awkward wet blanket, and nobody wants that.

What if a responder knows the person getting HEROed?

Yeah this one is tricky. It can be tough on both the patient and responder. As responders, all we can do is maintain a high quality of services, which means treating all patients with the same professionalism. Sometimes knowing the pa-

tient can help establish trust, especially if the patient is anxious for whatever reason. I mean, it's not everyday that a bunch of uniformed people with blue gloves and walkie-talkies descend on you and start sticking little clips on your fingers and shining lights in your eyes.

What do you do when responders run into people they treated after the fact?

Nothing. Everyone has rough days/nights. Personally, I don't believe one situation reflects on your intelligence, maturity, capability or anything else about you as a person. If I even remember you among all the cases we respond to, I frankly won't acknowledge that I saw you in the context of being HEROed. Read: I do not care (in the most positive way possible). You do you, I do my thing, we all move along and it's fine.

Of course I can't go without saying how much I love HERO and how much the overall experience means to me. HERO is an awesome and diverse group of people (contrary to popular opinion, we are not all pre-meds!). As a newbie last year, I met so many people in HERO that I respect and appreciate a ton. This year's application cycle is closed, but next year I definitely recommend #RUSHHERO.



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HERO is an organization that trains students as certified EMTs for campus emergencies.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

Clinton v. Trump: between a rock and Krakatoa



Alicia Badea
Politics and Power

And so the apocalypse begins.

Perhaps not quite. But America certainly got a taste of disaster, or at least the potential of it, on Monday night. Oh America, America — look where your infatuation with the risqué has brought you now.

Between a rock and the heart of Kraka-freaking-toa, that is.

Look, I'm not exactly Hillary's number one fan. Not even her number two fan. I don't strut around with a "Hillary 2016" pin latched to my chest. I wouldn't start furious Facebook fights with strangers in the comment section of some irrelevant dank meme (you know that's how 90 percent of them start).

But to have her debate Trump — that insult to oompa-loompas everywhere? It's enough to offend a goldfish after terrifying it.

It was surreal. It was like watching the rehearsal of a satire piece or the going-ons of some strange alternative dystopian reality, but with the horrifying gut-wrench reminder that this was all happening here and now.

A typical debate run-

down: Achieving prosperity, security, economy. Except there was nothing typical about this debate, if you could even call it that. Donald started off seemingly repressed, trying to keep it "presidential," whatever that means. He went straight to how jobs are "fleeing the country" and backpacking to — who would've guessed — Mexico. But his attempt at tampering down his own tantrums didn't last long.

Donald, if you observe him not even all that closely, has primarily two methods of speaking, either in the shortest phrases English allows for bare coherency or without the concept of a period in mind. He adores the Obnoxious Interjection. For example, "That makes me smart," after Hillary just mentioned how he hasn't paid federal income taxes in years.

Or "That's called business," after Hillary discussed Donald's rooting on the housing market collapse and his subsequent exploitation of it. And the ever-so-striking, "I do not say that" in reference to his actual quote that China is hoaxing us all about climate change.

There are far too many examples of his interruptions — 55 according to *Time* — to even list all of them. But what else did Donald do besides interrupt? He certainly didn't discuss policy because he'd have to have some to discuss.

Concerning the things he did say (they are admittedly continuously concerning), Donald was a tornado of past and present contradictions.

He denied supporting the Iraq war, cajoling every single American to personally call up Sean Hannity to confirm his denial, while also lamenting that "we should've taken the oil," (an international crime), and incorrectly blaming President Obama for the creation of ISIS.

He promoted stop and frisk, causing Lester Holt to bring up the fact that the policy was grounded in racial profiling and therefore was ruled unconstitutional. He said, and yes, this is real, "Our airports are like, from a third world country," and the even more palatable, "we've become a third world country."

Of course, context is everything. Dear Donald was discussing the terrible disrepair of our infrastructure and how the government doesn't do anything but rack up debt — and, oh, Donald's tax plan? Cut taxes on the wealthy. Not that he pays them anyway.

Hillary headed into the maelstrom with a calm and composure that even Jesus would commend. What's more is that she kept that composure even when the monkey started throwing his you-know-what toward her. Even if you hate Hillary to the depths of hell, you've got to give it to her, she's got willpower.

She tested out a couple of vague policies at the beginning, mentioning modernizing the electric grid, utilizing solar panels, promoting the creation of ten million more new jobs in clean energy and employing a "special prosecutor" to

enforce trade deals. But of course, who was she going to tackle the nuances and complexities of policy with?

Her responses, both to Lester and to Donald, soon retained the basic format of generalities, a few choice numbers and statistics and the abyss-wide contrast between her and the toupéed Annoying Orange on the right.

To put it lightly, they took on the inevitably lesser-evil flavor her campaign has been laced with. But then, of course, what kind of standard is Donald? He is the ultimate incomparable. Let's be real: Anyone who gives a rat's cracker about policy already read the .coms. And most of the people watching, well, spectator sports rarely have fans switching teams.

Hillary had her moments, her waves in a sea that went entirely her direction anyway. Her one-line zingers like "He talks about his secret plan [for defeating ISIS] — the only secret is that he has no plan" peppered the night oh-so-satisfyingly.

Apart from the spice, she held herself accountable for the email debacle, she demonstrated a willingness to stand by her proposed income tax increase on the wealthy and she addressed race in multiple contexts, recognizing that "implicit bias is a problem for everyone."

In the end, Hillary summarized it best: "A man who can be provoked by a tweet should not have his fingers anywhere near the nuclear codes."

How to hide from your problems

Everyone knows Hopkins students are stressed. We scream stress from the tips of our bedheads to the soles of our unwashed socks. Everyone needs to get away for a little while, so here are the best places to do it.

Your Room

If you've got it, flaunt it, make all the freshmen and sophomore McCoy dwellers jealous. Truly a hiding place classic, there's nothing better than sitting by yourself and watching TV like you don't have three midterms next week.

BONUS FEATURE:

That drawer you can keep perpetually stocked with chocolate and tears.

A Closet

If you don't know, then I can't explain it to you.

BONUS FEATURE:

Musty coat smell

A Tree

You get stress-killing exercise from the climb and a nice perspective-inducing vantage point from the top. If you've ever played hide and seek as a child then you know that there is no hiding place quite as impressive as a tree.

BONUS FEATURE:

You get to observe weird creatures in their natural habitat.

Brody

The inhabitants of Brody truly come from the best of both worlds. There, you can see the last minute paper writers and all night studiers, as well as the people who seem to have their life too together and are up past 3 a.m. in order to get homework done for next week. Only in the BLC can you both feel both bad and good about your situation in life by watching the people around you.

BONUS FEATURE:

See "A Closet"

Blood, guts and glory: Dealing with a period



Meagan Peoples
Ignorant in America

The day I first learned about periods, I came home all proud of my adulthood with a little goody bag full of tampons, pads and dreams.

So of course the first thing I do, little nine-year-old chest all puffed up with the pride of knowing something you think others don't, is show my new stockpile to my older brother.

I informed him about how women bleed every month and that I could die if I left a tampon in too long. He half listened in that indulgent sort of way that older siblings occasionally choose to bestow on their whiny, younger relations.

Of course this wouldn't be something I would remember so clearly if it hadn't been colored with some kind of emotion: In this case it was shame.

My grandmother, an amazing woman who worked as a nurse back when they had to wear garters and worship doctors, complimented my brother on dealing

so well with all of my brazen "period talk." She laughed as she talked about how red my grandfather would have been, and don't even get her started on my uncle. That day was the day I first learned that I wasn't supposed to talk about menstruation with boys in the room.

Millions of little and, frankly even big, girls have experienced equal embarrassment all over the world. And it isn't helped by the societal need for silence that has built up around menstruation. Women aren't supposed to talk or complain about their periods.

When I first got mine at the age of 11, when sex was still a dirty word whispered to elicit giggles on the bus, it was actually really exciting.

It was what taking your first sip of beer is like. Sure it's probably a little gross, but it makes you feel like an adult. Of course, there wouldn't be a need to write this article if it had stayed that happy.

There is a weird dichotomy built up around periods as being both an overt sign of the beginning of womanhood as well as the start of the se-

crecy surrounding your bodily functions.

In Japan, the family celebrates by eating red bean rice, and my mother offered to pass on her girlhood tradition for me. Nevertheless, it was not something I wanted to announce to my father and brother.

I was beginning puberty with all it's genderless awkwardness and ill-humour, but on top of everything else, I felt the need to abscond to the bathroom each month, tampon hidden up my

sleeve, in order to hide a natural bodily process.

There are little milestones of embarrassment that you have to overcome when you have a period: The first time you bleed on sheets, the first time you have to ask the nurse for a tampon, the first time you bleed through your clothes in public (I was 14 and didn't notice until I got back from school).

Menstruation makes life a little more difficult. Yet, for some reason it never feels like something I can complain about openly. Women constantly have to toe the line between being open about their periods and not coming off as

"Women constantly have to toe the line of being open about their periods and not coming off as weak."

the johns hopkins
NEWS-LETTER

Editorial

The difficulty of achieving a truly diverse faculty

The Office of the Provost released the first ever Report on Faculty Composition on Thursday, Sept. 22, which presented statistics about the makeup of our faculty's gender and ethnicity.

The report was composed partially in response to protests staged by the Black Student Union (BSU) last November, during which participants requested University action and called for Hopkins to hire more minority faculty members.

The Editorial Board would like to thank the BSU for bringing faculty diversity to the University's attention, and we also commend the University for listening to its students and for considering their input.

The Editorial Board also appreciates the University's transparency in publishing this report. Most universities never take such a step. We believe the administration's decision to create this report puts Hopkins on the path to making our University a more inclusive place.

We recommend

that the Report on Faculty Composition be updated and released annually, as is the case at the University of Rochester, where an Annual Report on Diversity has been published every year since 2007.

According to the report, only eight percent of Hopkins faculty are underrepresented minorities (URM), while 19 percent of the Class of 2019 were URM. This disparity is a problem, but we must recognize the difficulties of closing that gap.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 74 percent of all awarded PhDs went to white people in 2010. The Editorial Board believes that having a faculty that is representative of the diversity of the student body is important, and we commend the University for taking steps to hire more URM faculty. However, we also recognize that Hopkins will not sacrifice the quality of its professors.

The Report on Faculty Composition also offered statistics on our faculty's gender

breakdown. Women make up 42 percent of the faculty and are, therefore, nearly evenly represented with men. However, only nine percent of professorial positions in our Engineering departments are held by women.

According to the Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine, 22 percent of PhDs in those fields awarded in 2011 went to women. The Editorial Board acknowledges that there is a small pool of women to hire from, but we believe that is important to have female professors in STEM fields so that female students have positive role models leading their classes.

Although the Report on Faculty Composition reveals a lack of diversity in the Hopkins faculty and a disparity between women and URM in non-professorial positions and professorial positions, its publication represents an important step taken by the University in the direction of greater transparency and more diversity in the future.

How to improve the second year experience

In an email sent to the Class of 2019 on Aug. 26, the University announced the introduction of a Second-Year Experience (SYE) Program with the goal of easing the difficulties of sophomore year.

So far, the SYE Program has offered a few community bonding events like a barbecue and a brunch, but the program's assistant director, Aaron Rutledge, has not yet outlined specific ways for the program to address the problems faced by sophomores.

The Editorial Board recognizes that the heightened responsibilities and academic challenges of sophomore year make it more intensive and stressful than freshman year. We commend the University for their initiative in creating the SYE Program and appreciate the administration's attention to student concerns and willingness to take measures to address them.

However, trying to replicate the support of freshman year for sophomores is not the right solution. It transfers agency away from students and onto the University.

The Editorial Board believes sophomores

should instead receive more specialized assistance.

Rather than planning community-building events like lunches, we think the SYE Program should focus more on addressing students' mental health and academic concerns by connecting them with campus resources such as the Counseling Center and Career Center.

While we do acknowledge that community building is vital, it could be better facilitated by giving more responsibility and autonomy to RAs, who interact directly with students and can better understand their preferences.

Furthermore, to genuinely help sophomores, the University should try to understand what the "sophomore slump" really means. The difficulty level of classes increases significantly between freshman and sophomore year, which the Editorial Board believes directly contributes to the increased stress experienced by sophomores. So far, the SYE Program has offered only non-academic support.

The Editorial Board suggests adding up-

per-level classes to already existing academic support systems like Learning Den and PILOT. Introducing larger upper level classes like Organic Chemistry, Differential Equations and Nervous Systems, which have high sophomore enrollment, to these support systems would both create student employment and increase accessibility to academic aid resources.

Though Organic Chemistry does have a PILOT session, it is only available to the freshman section. Sophomores can access autoPILOT, which is a version of PILOT run by students currently in the class, but the Editorial Board does not believe this is enough.

The Editorial Board does, however, appreciate the effort of SYE Program Assistant Director Rutledge. As a new employee who is fairly unfamiliar with how Hopkins works, he has been receptive to student feedback on how to improve the sophomore experience. We urge students to continue giving as much feedback as possible to help Rutledge provide more effective support in the future.

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The News-Letter encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. The Johns Hopkins News-Letter reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon approval for publication, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of The News-Letter. The News-Letter reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words, must address content previously published in The News-Letter, and must include the author's name, address and phone number. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue; they should be sent to chiefs@jhnewsletter.com (with "Letter to the editor" in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact opinions@jhnewsletter.com. Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

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OPINIONS

Kaepernick’s protest is not disrespectful

By EMELINE ARMITAGE

Last week, the sports section of *The News-Letter* published an article criticizing San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick’s decision to kneel during the national anthem in a protest against the oppression of black Americans. Although I vehemently disagree with the article and applaud Kaepernick’s bravery to bring issues of white supremacy into discussion, the article did provoke thought about nationalistic imagery. Specifically, how myself (a twenty-year old) and the young-adult authors of anti-Kaepernick pieces, could grow up with the same nationalistic symbols in the fervently patriotic post-9/11 world, yet develop such different viewpoints.

Every morning in grade school, I, and I’m sure many of my peers, placed a hand upon my heart, faced an American flag, and pledged my allegiance to the United States of America. Every basketball and softball game I played would start out with the same patriotic ritual: “please stand and face the flag for the playing of our national anthem.” I pledged and recited and stood and hummed along, uncritical of the ceremony.

I remember being a child and hearing about the push to change “french fries” to “freedom fries” when the French government did not support the invasion of Iraq. I remember being in middle school and chanting “USA! USA!” when Obama won the 2008 election. I remember being in high school and hearing people cheer about the killing of Osama Bin Laden. Our generation grew up learning that America was the best, no questions asked, one nation, indivisible, all wrapped up with a shiny red-white-and-blue bow.

My political opinions have evolved considerably since I was in grade school staring up at the flag (and I hope they never stop evolving). I agree with Kaepernick when he says that the American flag represents “a country that oppresses black people and people of color.” I no longer think of freedom fries. I no longer hope nor change when I view the flag, but rather see the symbol of a white supremacist

settler-colonial nation founded upon genocide and slavery; a nation where a football player kneeling for the national anthem garners more outrage from white football fans than the fact there is a football team named after a racial slur.

I implore my fellow young adults to question the patriotism we were served as children. I don’t think I ever asked “why I am pledging allegiance to this flag?”—I just did because I was supposed to. I never questioned why I was taught and why I believed that the United States was the best country in the world. I didn’t learn until this month that the national anthem—ubiquitous at American sporting events—was written by a slave owner and mentions slavery in the third verse. I know that everyone will not reach the same political conclusions I have, yet I hope that my generation at least starts questioning what we were taught.

The main argument against Kaepernick’s protest, as in *The News-Letter* article, is that Kaepernick’s protest, as well as general anti-American sentiment, is disrespectful to American soldiers and those who have served in the military. I frankly find this argument to be ridiculous and, ironically, disrespectful to those in the military who support Kaepernick.

Firstly, critiquing an institution does not mean disrespecting every single person involved with the institution. I personally abhor the American military institution, but that doesn’t mean I don’t love and respect my friends and family who have served. I have never made my opinions a secret, and while I’m sure some

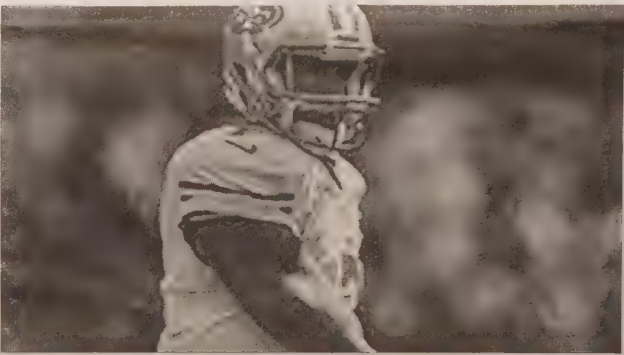
of them disagree, we still have respectful, loving relationships.

Secondly, many veterans support Kaepernick. The twitter hashtag “VeteransforKaepernick” showed current and former military personnel expressing support for Kaepernick, with some supporting the general ideas of free speech and protest and others showing support for the anti-police brutality and anti-racism aspects of Kaepernick’s protest. Veterans are not a monolith and cannot unitarily be “disrespected” by political opinions.

I have been slowly reflecting on a conversation I had on the phone with my grandfather over the summer. We were discussing the presidential election and political issues and my grandfather, a World War II veteran, remarked “I hope your generation finds a way to end war.” I don’t know if ending war will ever be possible, and I don’t think my generation is special or different than any other. But if we ever hope to improve the world just a tiny bit we have to start questioning what we were taught.

Based on his decision to fight against white supremacy - a decision he knew would invite a mountain of criticism - Colin Kaepernick has become someone I look up to even though I stood for the national anthem and pledged allegiance to the flag for years. I urge members of my generation to reflect on our upbringing in a fervently patriotic America as we do ourselves a disservice by unquestioningly spitting out nationalism.

Emeline Armitage is a junior International Studies major from Cleveland.



MIKE MORBECK/ CC BY-SA 2.0
Colin Kaepernick provoked controversy by kneeling during the national anthem.

SGA signature petitions lack legitimacy and logic

By MAX JARCHO

About a week ago, I had gathered in a library study room with some friends. Although there were some new faces in the room, I focused on doing my work, not on meeting new people. Someone I hadn’t met before caught my attention, however, when they requested us all to sign their SGA candidacy petition.

Though this was my first encounter with such a document, it didn’t take long for me to realize that this was the same kind of petition that my friend had perplexedly seen passed around his calculus lecture recently. I quickly learned that these petitions are requirements for any freshman desiring to be a candidate for Class President or for the Senate.

Initially, this makes sense. Verifying support for prospective candidates before their names are placed on election tickets seems logical. It would be frustrating and confusing to have an absurdly large number of candidates on an election ticket. The apparent answer to this problem, then, is to require every prospective candidate to gather 200 signatures from their classmates before they are permitted to run in the election.

But is this logical? It would surprise me if anyone in my class has truly met and befriended 200 other freshmen. Of course, “truly met and befriended” is a subjective statement, but in this political matter, I believe one would want to meet before voicing their approval of their candidacy. Expecting candidates to have accomplished such feats of new friendship is ridiculous, which may be why prospective candidates turn to circulating petitions in class.

The various ways one can obtain signatures include asking their friends and advertising their political goals to other students. There’s also the quicker method of passing around a petition in class or rapidly seeking any freshmen who are simply willing to sign on the dotted line.

Having signed the petition presented to me, I began to wonder about the consequences. Unsure, I told myself, “It’s only one signature. How much of a difference can it make?”

The truth is, it can make quite a difference. One signature can be the difference between candidacy and rejection. Dramatic as this may be, the way I have seen these petitions handled by their owners and signers tells me that the establishment of prospective candidates’ legitimacy is taking place in an awfully trivial way.

Imagine on a broader scale how different the American political scene might be if Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump and

all the original 2016 presidential candidates solicited signatures from the millions of Americans eligible to vote. Would the current candidacy situation be different than it is now?

I have presumed these petitions are meant to ensure that the candidates and their classmates are genuinely interested in political relationships with each other. However, I have only made presumptions because the SGA has not released information on these petitions. The only information I have is from the prospective candidates themselves.

Returning to the aforementioned analogy, imagine how Trump might present the regulations and rules regarding his signature petition compared to Clinton. Regardless of political stances, it is easy to deduct that the two opponents in the upcoming election would propose their petitions differently.

It is only logical that the SGA explain the petition process not only to the prospective candidates, but also to the student body. After all, the student body is the group that the Class President will serve and that senators will represent.

Aside from this inherent weakness due to lack of information, the petitions might lack legitimacy since each prospective candidate oversees their own collection process of signatures. But what is a legitimate signature? After hearing of petitions passed around in class, and having one handed to me by someone whom I had barely even met, I can’t say for sure.

In conclusion, the general responsibility has been put on the prospective candidates themselves to garner signatures for their candidacy. This responsibility makes sense, but why do candidates ask for signatures without even first describing their ideas and goals as a potential candidate? It is simpler and less time consuming to take this “easy way out” but the lack of oversight leads me to question its efficiency as a whole.

If the idea is merely to weed out the prospective candidates who are not serious about their position, there are certainly easier ways to do so. If the idea is to truly garner and gauge support for the prospective candidates, then I believe the signature system, at least in its current state, is neither effective nor beneficial to the Hopkins community.

It is only logical that the SGA explain the petition process not only to prospective candidates, but also to the student body.

Presidential debate raises questions about our beliefs

By STEPHANIE HAENN

Squinting at a small computer screen, college students across the country streamed the first presidential debate from their dorm rooms on Monday, Sept. 26. For most college students, this is the first election cycle that warrants our voice with any degree of authority. This is the first time we are eligible to vote. Fortunately, this milestone coincides with our journey to sculpting our own political identity. After 18 years living under our parents’ roofs, we are both liberated and abandoned on our quest to find our political ideologies.

Throughout high school, our political beliefs were dependent on our parents’ opinions. Perhaps, your beliefs still align

with your parents. Contrastingly, maybe your opinions are now more parallel to your peers’ than your parents’. However, at the core, a person’s individual experiences and environments determine their opinions. College is one of these pressurizing environments.

So, the day after college students across the country submitted to the debate, watching redundant and already known babble hiccup out of the candidates’ mouths, small talk about the previous night’s events was littered into many conversations.

In my first class, a literature class, my professor greeted us with frustrated commentary about the debate. Essentially, he was hinting at the inevitable futility of such a situation; we’ve already heard the candidates’ views, and we’ve already decided whom we support. Either outright or subconsciously, we know who we’re voting for—unless something unexpected were to shock us.

After admitting to not watching the debate, my professor asked, “Was

anyone like, ‘I learned something?’” to which a student responded, “It was pretty much what was expected.”

We weren’t shocked. We went into viewing the debate—on a low-quality, stuttering live stream—knowing exactly what would be said. My professor further discussed the predictability of the debate by likening it to a Superbowl match between the Patriots and the Cowboys. The Cowboys, the underdogs, are validated as qualified contenders merely by making it to the field. But in the end, the expected prevails and, as my professor put it, it’s “depressing.”

The class proceeded as planned, leaving the vague sentiments regarding the debate to fester in the back of our minds, as the professor talked about Poe and Freud. Somehow, more debate commentary seeped into the discussion about halfway through the 75-minute class.

Before heading to work, the professor was perusing the web to compensate for not watching the debate. He came across an article in a French newspaper that put the candidates’ orations to a linguistic test, analyzing syllables, in order to determine the age level at which the candidates were speaking. My professor relayed that Trump spoke at a 9-year-old’s vocabulary level according to this test. Expanding on this, my professor said that

not only was the debate predictable, but the points addressed weren’t even debatable. He stated that Trump’s words were simplified to the point where “we don’t have to debate this, we all know what these words mean.”

So, how does this small talk, these rhetorical suggestions, sway our opinions? Does the inclusion of political conversation—however brief or objective—influence our outlook to a malleable degree? These are questions I pondered while listening to my professor lecture about Freud’s obsession with castration in the context of Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Purloined Letter.”

Regardless of the context of how we receive others’ opinions, we should question the origin of our own opinions in order to sift through spoon-fed beliefs from personally cultivated opinions. Furthermore, we need to decide if the distinction even matters. As we go to fill out the presidential ballot for the first time, we will think back on our formulated standpoint, and taking on a psychoanalytic eye, we will question how we came to our decision. The expectedness of the entire situation might just collapse and we might emerge with renewed clarity.

Stephanie Haenn is a sophomore Writing Seminars and English double major from Philadelphia.

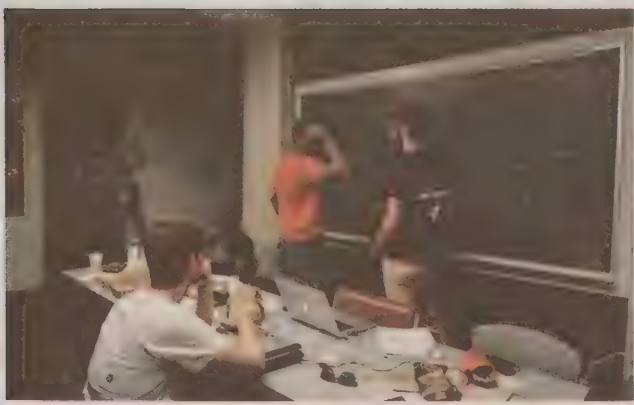
Errata: Sept. 22 Edition

In the Sept. 22, 2016 edition of *The News-Letter*, the article “Modern college students are theologically illiterate” misspelled Hamaad Shah’s name and reported that Shah is the president of the JHU Muslim Student Association. He is actually the former president.

The News-Letter regrets this error.

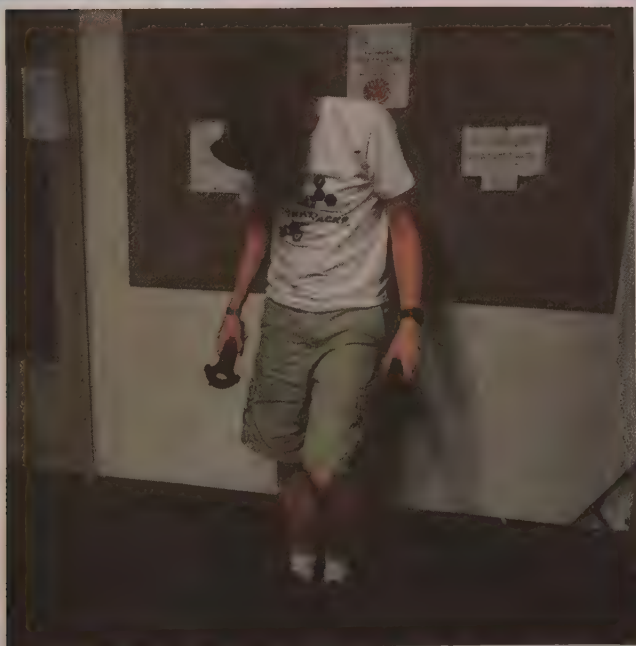
Max Jarcho is a freshman Computer Science major from Ridgefield, Conn.

PHOTO ESSAY



MedHacks 2.0

Photos by Kunal Maiti



THE B SECTION

N-L


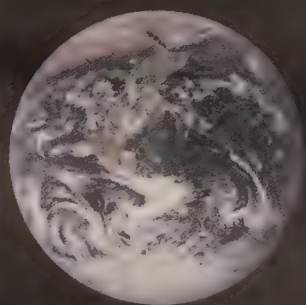
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YOUR WEEKEND SEPT 29-OCT 2

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Thursday

Undocumented Fears, Red Emma's Bookstore Coffeehouse, 7:30 p.m.

Author Jamie Longazel will explore the world's undocumented fears. He will offer a close-up look at the passing of the Illegal Immigration Relief Act and the many debates and issues that followed and that still very much exist today.

Free.

Friday

The Book Thing Benefit Mt. Vernon Haunted Pub Crawl, Mt. Vernon Place, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

All proceeds from this pub tour will go to The Book Thing of Baltimore. The tour will meet at Lafayette Monument at 6 p.m., and will delve into the history of Mt. Vernon and of Baltimore. \$20.

Baltimore Bike Party, St. Mary's Park, 6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

A Baltimore classic returns once again this Friday. Cyclists will meet at St. Mary's Park at 6:30 and depart at 7 p.m. The theme this month is animals, so whip out your best animal costume!

Free.

Saturday

Celebrate Baltimore Birds: Fall Festival, Baltimore Outward Bound School, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

All ages fall festival in Gwynns Falls Leakin Park will offer live birds, pick and paint your own pumpkin, a tree giveaway, cider and waffles, bird walks, speakers from near and far and other wonderful things! Free.

Baltimore Jazz Fest, Druid Hill Park, 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Baltimore's first ever jazz fest will feature some of Baltimore's finest musicians playing all kinds of jazz — gypsy, Latin, funk, fusion, straight-ahead — food, artists, a beer garden and a musical instrument “petting zoo.” Free.

Sunday

Fell's Point Fun Festival, Fells Point Historic District, 9:15 a.m. - 7 p.m.

If you're not tired of festivals yet, or if you couldn't make it on Saturday, here's one more! Music, food and fun in Fells Point, starting on Friday at 6 p.m. and continuing all weekend. Free.

Get Outdoors Baltimore offers fun, prizes

By VERONICA REARDON
Your Weekend Editor

Baltimore isn't the first place anyone thinks of when they think of the outdoors, which in a way does make sense — after all, it is very definitely an urban environment.

Despite its urban identity, Baltimore is full of amazing outdoor resources to explore. This weekend, you can win both prizes and a better knowledge of Baltimore's resources by getting outside this weekend through Get Outdoors Baltimore, which will be run by Outdoor Pursuits (OP), one of the outdoors organizations on our campus.

The event will start on the Freshman Quad on Friday. OP will host an Outdoor Olympics of sorts there, where anyone can compete in various outdoor games to win prizes. The rest of the weekend will be have an off-campus focus.

You — yes, you — can go off campus independently with your friends and take pictures to post in the Facebook event in order to win more nifty prizes from OP.

“But where in the world will I go to get outside in Baltimore?” you ask. Well, I'll tell you. Baltimore has so many amazing opportunities to get outside it is impossible to cover them in one article, but here are a few of my favorites:

Druid Hill Park is a Baltimore classic that features more than the Reservoir and the Zoo. It has a lot of lovely trees, a really nice trail in the back hills behind the zoo for running and biking, the Rawlings Conservatory and many other re-



COURTESY OF MOLLY GALLANT

Clockwise, from the left: Gwynns Falls Park, Round Falls, Middle Branch Park and Herring Run Park.

sources. It's about two miles away from campus, making it a great running destination and an even better biking destination.

The next spot is Lake Montebello. Interestingly, this popular spot is not run by the Department of Recreation and Parks. It is tended to by the Department of Public Works because it is technically a body of water, not a park, although it is used as a recreational area by many people.

This means that while there is workout equipment, running and biking paths and some nice treed areas, there are no public bathrooms at the lake itself. The nearest bathrooms are down in the nearby Herring Run Park. However the lake is definitely still worth a visit. It's beautiful and a great running destination, and Recreation and Parks has a bike program on Saturday mornings there that allows people to check out bikes for a suggested donation (essentially free).

This outdoors area is also only two miles away from campus and is a straight shot down 33rd Street. Herring Run Park is an even better area and

is right next to Lake Montebello.

The next park is a little further away from Hopkins. Home of First Thursdays and other events, Canton Waterfront Park is right on the Harbor. It is great for a picnic — definitely a part of the charm of Charm City. It's also close to many restaurants and businesses.

If you're looking for a larger park, Patterson Park is another great option and is nearby to Canton Waterfront Park. You could even visit both Canton Waterfront park and Patterson Park on the same day. Patterson Park is the oldest park in Baltimore, and features an awesome pagoda and other elements of 19th-century park design.

Middle Branch Park is slightly far from campus, but if you're looking for an afternoon bike ride that will take you through the Harbor, past the stadium and around again to views of the water, you should hit it up. Fair warning: a short section of the path goes by some sort of trash facility. The rest is very nice though and fairly well blazed.

Recreation and Parks also has a boat program at Middle Branch Park on

Fridays from 6:30 to 9 p.m., which allows you to rent a boat and watch the sunset.

Last but far from least, Gwynns Falls Leakin Park is one of the largest woodland city parks in the U.S. It has hiking, biking and the Carrie Murray Nature Center, as well as some strange and cool sculptures along the trails.

There is even rock climbing if you have the equipment. Yes, bodies have been found there, but bodies have also been found in the Inner Harbor. As a matter of fact, a body washed up in the Harbor just this summer, while the last body was found in Leakin Park four years ago. Gwynns Falls Leakin Park is an amazing recreational resource and needs to be valued more.

I could write more about Baltimore's green spaces, but this will have to be it for now. There will be camp-outs in both Herring Run and Gwynns Falls Leakin Park this October run by Friends groups and by Baltimore Recreation and Parks. Go check them out, and get outdoors in Baltimore. Love the city we live in! And this weekend — win prizes while doing it.

B-there or b-square: a visit to B. Doughnut

By SIMON BOHN
For The News-Letter

The cronut has come to Baltimore. Or, at least, the doughssant has. A metaphorical and physical portmanteau of doughnut and croissant, the doughssant is a delicious hybrid between the two pastries. It has flaky, buttery, laminated dough like a croissant, but is fried like a doughnut. Sound amazing? It is, but you better be prepared to go to some lengths to get one.

At B. Doughnut, Baltimore's very own artificially scarce doughnut shop, the early bird gets the worm. You'll have to get up early if you want to get one of their specialty products like the doughssant or everything-bagel-with-lox doughnut (more on that later).

How early? I went at 9:15 a.m. on a Sunday and they had already run out of doughssants. Their stated closing time is 1 p.m. but they post on their Facebook page when they run out of doughnuts. Once they're out, that's it for the day. Most weekends they post by about 11 a.m., so it's hard to get your beauty rest if you want some of these. However, with the best doughnuts in miles, B. Doughnut is worth a few hours of missed sleep.

B. Doughnut challenges the definition of doughnut. Their pastries are not shaped the way you would expect a doughnut to be shaped. With the exception of doughssants, their doughnuts tend to have the holes filled in.

I suspect this decision was to allow more room for filling, an area where B. Doughnut excels. The classics include vanilla bean, lemon curd or berry jam filling, and B. Doughnut rotates new fillings daily. When I went apple cinnamon was on the menu to celebrate the beginning of autumn. For purists, there are unfilled options. And if you're not in the mood for a sweets, B. Doughnut proposes that an everything bagel can be a doughnut flavor too.

I was feeling adventurous so I got the everything-bagel-with-chive doughnut and an unfilled chocolate frosted doughnut to set a baseline. The base dough tastes closer to that of Krispy Kreme than it does to Dunkin' Doughnuts.

It is surprisingly light for a doughnut and by itself is not particularly sweet. The crust is just barely on the line between soft and crisp. The everything bagel doughnut was filled with cream cheese and



PHOTO COURTESY OF IFE AKINKUNMI

The sweet, sweet harvest of an early morning run to B. Doughnut.

plentifully coated with poppy seed, sesame seed and garlic powder.

It tasted surprisingly good, but was too salty for my sleepy tastebuds. I wish I could have gotten the one with lox, as I think that would have cut the saltiness a bit but alas I was too late and they had already ran out by 9:15. The chocolate frosted doughnut was everything anyone could wish for in a pastry with generous and authentically chocolate frosting. Although

I wasn't able to snag a doughssant on this visit, I got my hands on one a few months ago and it was sublime, easily worth waking up an hour even earlier for.

B. Doughnut is located in Hampden at 3528 Chestnut Ave., about a 20 minute walk from campus. A bike ride takes about 10-15 minutes. If you need to get some studying done early on a weekend, you can make the whole experience a lot more pleasant by starting with a trip to B. Doughnut.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

High hopes for the HOP's new music festival

By SPENCER ABROHMS
For *The News-Letter*

The HOP will put on its annual music festival, entitled JAM, for the first time on Saturday. The inaugural festival will feature Robert DeLong, Party Favor and D.R.A.M. as openers, and iLoveMakonnen will headline. These diverse performers will take the stage in the Rec Center as a central part of the larger Young Alumni Weekend festivities.

The HOP began planning the festival in June and created a longlist of potential performers. The group decided to put its foremost focus toward securing a wide variety of musicians. Music festivals are known for being a conglomeration of eclectic music styles and the HOP is trying to bring this atmosphere to campus.

The HOP Executive Co-Chair Anthony DeFurio, class of 2018, is happy with the artists the group decided to select.

"When we first came up with the idea of a music festival, we wanted to hit different genres. We wanted to make sure there was something for everyone," DeFurio said.

The eclectic group of performers selected definitely meets this criterion, as the choices represent



NRK P3/CC-BY-NC-SA-2.0

iLoveMakonnen, of Atlanta by way of Compton, will be visiting Hopkins on Saturday to headline JAM.

several genres of music. Robert DeLong is a one-man band, and he considers himself to fit into the alternative genre with a leaning toward dance-pop.

DeLong was originally a drummer, but after observing the use of electronic elements in raves, he decided to incorporate these mechanisms into his own music. Throughout his performances DeLong uses items such as Wii remotes and joysticks to modify his sound, and he is known for wearing face paint during live sets.

DeLong relies heavily on visuals, and it will be interesting to see what presentation he is able to bring

to the Rec Center stage.

Party Favor is an innovative name in the festival trap genre. He has created exciting remixes for Diplo and Major Lazer as well as produced his own successful records including the popular Bap U. On his most recent EP, Party Favor collaborated with Sean Kingston, Rich The Kid and Gucci Mane. A popular choice at music festivals, Party Favor will bring the festival environment to campus.

D.R.A.M. is an up and coming singer, rapper and producer. He gained international fame this summer for his collaboration on "Broccoli" with Lil Yachty which peaked at number eight on the Billboard hot 100. D.R.A.M. has only released one EP and one mixtape, so he is still a relatively new performer whose popularity is currently trending upward.

The headliner, iLoveMakonnen, is a hip hop artist who rose to fame in 2014 after Drake's remix of Makonnen's song "Tuesday" went viral. Makonnen often switches between rapping and singing and has formed his own unique brand.

Although he may not be as much of a household name as past Hopkins headliners like the Chain-smokers or Nelly, DeFurio is not worried.

"iLoveMakonnen is not a name that's instantly recognizable, but he has so many hits, and when you hear them you'll recognize them," DeFurio said.

Audience members are bound to hear something they can sing along to. Students are also gearing up for the performance, and junior Alex Rivera is very pleased with the selected musicians.

"I think they picked a diversified group that has someone that anyone can enjoy. I am impressed by their selection," Rivera said.

And this collection can certainly please anyone, because it provides the opportunity to see a performer you already follow and to discover someone new. These may not all be huge name acts, but they are definitely artists who are on the rise and have released popular tracks, or tracks that will be popular soon.

When asked who he was most excited to see, Rivera said, "Party Favor of course. I've seen him before and he puts on an absolutely killer show."

Many of these artists have very high production values in their performances and it will be interesting to see whether they are able to translate this high level of performance to the somewhat tight space in the Rec Center.

Junior Kaetlyn Bernal went to the Nelly concert for Spring Fair when it was in the Rec Center and voiced her opinion on holding a concert in that space.

"It was good because it still fit everybody and wasn't too crowded, but it was really intense because it got a little bit claustrophobic because everyone was all shoved toward the front," Bernal said.

Hopefully the pushing will be kept to a minimum, and the festival will still be fun in an indoor space.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased through Young Alumni Weekend registration. Hopefully JAM will get off to a good start, one that brings on tradition of music festivals at Hopkins.

Embody pulls together voices of local artists

By DUBRAY KINNEY
Arts & Entertainment Editor

WTMD, the radio station associated with Towson University, held *Embody*, a curated session focused on showcasing the unique vocal talents of multiple acts last Tuesday. The session completely stripped away every instrument besides the performers' voices. The event was hosted as well as curated by local beatboxer and Tuvan throat-singer Shodekeh.

Soprano Melissa Wimbish and beatboxer Wendel Patrick began the night. Their set featured Patrick laying down catchy rhythms which Wimbish crooned over. The moment of note during the performance was the final song, which featured Patrick rapping over vocalization from Wimbish.

Following those two was a collaboration between host Shodekeh and Baltimore City College teacher Edwin Perez. Perez studied voice in college and found a creative outlet through Baltimore's own Creative Alliance (the non-profit organization which promotes collaboration with area artists).

Perez performed two songs, both Caribbean folk tracks including a traditional Cuban song known as "El Manisero" (better known in English as *The Peanut Vendor*).

Prior to the performance Perez gave a bit of cultural background to the song which managed to illicit a few laughs (The

song is more sexually explicit than most thought). With another performer joining the two on stage, the three effortlessly performed the song, each adding their own unique ability to the song.

Following this, Shodekeh delivered a ten minute demonstration of his Tuvan throat-singing-inspired beat-boxing. Halfway through, *Embody's* DJ and frequent Shodekeh collaborator, Chuck the Mad Ox interrupted the performance before adding his own beat-boxing flair to the performance.

Following Shodekeh was vocalist Brooks Long and his R&B quartet. The performance that followed featured not only powerful vocals, but also a great amount of humor. The true highlight was during a song featuring the chorus, "There's a right way and a wrong to love," with each of the members of the group intercutting with their own funny stories of love.

Finally Dan Deacon finished the night off with an impromptu performance that got the crowd erupting in laughter. The most memorable moments occurred after Deacon rounded up everyone who had just performed for a round of "structured improvisation," in which every performer attempted to replicate the pitch and sound of Deacon at the same time.

After the performers attempted it, Deacon encouraged audience participation as everyone took part.



SELENA SMITH/CC BY-2.0

Dan Deacon performed a rare vocal-only set at Towson's *Embody*.

Christopher Ricks talks Poems of T.S. Eliot

By JACOB TOOK
For *The News-Letter*

Acclaimed literary critic Sir Christopher Ricks visited Hopkins to deliver the annual Turnbull Lecture on Tuesday entitled "T.S. Eliot and Matters of Principle," regarding the importance of principle in both literature and life.

The Turnbull Lecture series began in the late 19th century, initiated by a prominent literary family in Baltimore and named in memory of Percy Graeme Turnbull (1878-1887). Academic interest in these literary events has continued the series since its foundation in March of 1891 with only a few interruptions.

Hopkins has hosted a number of esteemed literary figures, including T.S. Eliot, the subject of Ricks' recent lecture, in 1933.

Ricks focused on Eliot's work because the Johns Hopkins Univer-

sity Press recently published *The Poems of T.S. Eliot* in two volumes. As well as editing the collection, Ricks significantly expanded upon Eliot's work with critical commentary and was awarded The Poetry Foundation's Pegasus Award for criticism.

Sir Andrew Motion, Homewood Professor of the Arts, said that the collection is especially important because, before its publication, "the greatest English language poet of the 20th century did not have a proper edition of his work," and Ricks has "put right a significant wrong in literature."

Though Ricks discussed some of the specific mechanics of Eliot's poetry, the crux of the lecture regarded the importance of principle, which Ricks juxtaposed with philosophy,

SEE READING, PAGE B5

Mndsgn lovingly crafts funky LP *Body Wash*

By NIKITA SHTARKMAN
For *The News-Letter*

Future beat producer Mndsgn's new album *Body Wash*, released Sept. 16, is a funk-fueled flood of ethereal strings, plinking synths and groovy drumming.

Ringgo Ancheta, known as Mndsgn (mind-design) is a Cali-based producer who is one of the great success stories of the Low End Theory generation. This is a group of artists who cultivated and perfected a specific, experimental style of electronic music at Low End

Theory, an underground club in L.A.

Mndsgn released this album on Stones Throw Records, a diverse and quirky label which houses many members of the L.A. beat scene including Knxwledge and Samiyam. This project is a major divergence from Mndsgn's usual work. Taking aspects of what he learned from his very free, liberated and experimental style, Mndsgn creates a cohesive, beautiful project.

Mndsgn, a producer who thrives on the cutting edge of music, uses this project to turn his focus back onto the past.

Body Wash is another project in the west coast's recent burst of exploration of old music.

One can see it with Tuxedo, Jake One and Mayer Hawthorne's funk/pop collaboration, Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp a Butterfly* and all of Dâm-Funk's work. What Mndsgn created this time isn't a beat tape or experimental electronic album, this is a pure funk project.

Mndsgn's greatest change is his groove. On previous projects, Mndsgn relied on Dilla-inspired, kick-heavy drum tracks, but on *Body Wash*, he turned to hectic funk

and soul rhythms as his backing. Even with this evolution, some aspects of Mndsgn's percussive style stay the same. He still maintains a dragging tempo letting the chords ring out for a while and linger over the beats and the bass. The songs move slowly and the music dries out like honey.

In his previous work Mndsgn played the role of a mad scientist, experimenting with rhythms and sounds. With a broad sound palette and a seemingly infinite store of inspiration, Mndsgn created some very unique

SEE BODY WASH, PAGE B5

Murray-loving critic takes on St. Vincent



Will Kirsch
The Cut-Rate Critic

Your wait is over, Hopkins. I have returned armed with yet another review you did not ask for or think you needed.

Thankfully, here at *The News-Letter*, we have perfected *Minority Report*-style preemption and are capable of fulfilling your needs before you are even cognizant of them. Yes, you are indeed welcome. We are the thought police and we know exactly what you are thinking, but in a friendly, non-dystopian way.

This review requires something of a disclaimer regarding the writer's opinion to the film's lead actor. I really love Bill Murray. A lot. The man emanates such immaculate and incomprehensible swag on film.

So my approach towards this film was, at first, semi-devotional. Nonetheless, I swallowed an objectivity pill before I began watching Theodore Melfi's 2014 film *St. Vincent*, starring Bill Murray, began.

St. Vincent is the story of a cantankerous old man, Vincent MacKenna (Murray), whose precariously balanced misery is disturbed by the arrival of a new pair of neighbors, recently divorced Maggie Bronstein (Melissa McCarthy) and her son Oliver (Jaeden Lieberher).

Vincent becomes something of an accidental and highly begrudging babysitter to Oliver after Maggie is forced to start working late, fostering a semi-healthy relationship between the exceedingly frail child and the gambling-and-alcohol addicted old man.

As the film progresses, Oliver and Vincent grow close, and Oliver begins to gain some insight into the abstract collection of angers that is Vincent. After a health scare, the Bronsteins and Vincent's pregnant Russian "lady-of-the-night" girlfriend Daka Paramova (Naomi Watts) nurse Vincent back to health and, after some expected drama and redemption, the neighbors and their respective tertiary characters find some semblance of balance and happiness.

Vincent has problems, and by that I do not mean that he is old and crotchety. His wife has been consumed by Alzheimer's to the extent that she no longer recognizes him. He is in debt, both monetarily and in regards to the number of healthy cells left in his liver. Vincent struggles to maintain care for his wife while he himself is trying to scrape by. Maggie and Oliver, too, have problems, albeit less interesting ones.



Bill Murray stars as the miserable old man Vincent MacKenna in Theodore Melfi's 2014 film *St. Vincent*.

cent struggles to maintain care for his wife while he himself is trying to scrape by. Maggie and Oliver, too, have problems, albeit less interesting ones.

A newly divorced mom fighting for custody and a bullied kid are old tropes, but they are presented with a little less gravity in *St. Vincent*.

As far as plot goes, *St. Vincent* is not much to write home about. It's your basic anti-hero redemption story set in against the backdrop of a stagnant middle class neighborhood.

ST. VINCENT
Starring: Bill Murray, Melissa McCarthy, Jaeden Lieberher, Naomi Watts
Director: Theodore Melfi
Originally Released: 2014
Run Time: 102 mins.
Rating: PG-13
Rotten Tomatoes Score: 78%

S i d e note: The movie is set in Brooklyn, but not the type of Brooklyn that exists anymore. It's more the type of Brooklyn that people reminisce about when someone rides past them on a unicycle. In this magical and probably rent-controlled island of old New York that exists at the center of America's hipster supernova, you can find the usual suspects (that makes two 90s movie references in one article): petty criminals, decrepit bars and the generally oppressed.

The plot of the movie, while cookie-cutter, features a fair amount of well-developed characters who are portrayed superbly. A story that could have easily been dull is made interesting by Murray's embodiment of the very bizarre and very interesting Vincent.

McCarthy's well-played manic and high-strung single mom fares well alongside the often dominating on-screen presence of a star like Murray. In addition, Naomi Watts's Daka, Vincent's pay-by-the-hour companion turned girlfriend, makes for a great comic foil while still being a fulfilling character.

Along with the main cast, a few supporting characters are worthy of note. Oliver's teacher Brother Geraghty (Chris O'Dowd) makes Catholic school funny, a task contemporary human-kind previously thought to be unachievable. Oliver's friend Robert Ocinski (Dario Barosso) does a good job of switching from bully to companion of the leading boy.

Also, Terrence Howard

makes an appearance as a loan shark named Zucko. This is kind of weird, because at one point Terrence Howard has a gun — notice how I said the actor's name and not the character's name. Not that it really matters because he does not have a significant part, but I can not find you threatening when you always look like you are about to cry, Terrence Howard.

Despite all that stuff I said about the plot and the opportunity I took to mock Brooklyn (the most overrated borough of the most overrated city in the United States), I honestly think this is a good movie. It's definitely not earth-shattering, remarkable or unique, but it's solidly entertaining.

The actors and indeed the script do a good job of taking a mundane idea and making something worth watching. Murray is good, which is a tame adjective on my part, and his costars Lieberher, McCarthy and Watts all add their own substance to the film.

Combine that powerful leading four with some compelling supporting characters and you have something palatable. Also, and completely unrelated, this movie should be required viewing because in it, Bill Murray sets the precedent for how you should dress as a septuagenarian: socks and sandals combined with cargo shorts. Take notes, people.

people.

Well, full disclosure, I have run out of things to say about this movie, so I will be offering some relationship advice loosely related to this film. Here the reader should take a brief pause to imagine all my exes laughing condescendingly.

This movie was Theodore Melfi's first film, which makes it indie to a certain degree. It is far from being a blockbuster. So, if you are pursuing a person who is more trendy than you and perhaps fancies themselves a "movie critic" (cough) watch this movie next time you disappoint them with Netflix and chill.

They will no doubt be moderately impressed by your taste in film and you will probably still enjoy the movie because it has some famous people in it. Throw in the phrase "directorial debut," and enjoy their adoration of your own personal renaissance. There you go, a little advice to go with the criticism. Like I said before, you are indeed welcome.

Also, if any of you New Yorkers have anything to say regarding my opinions on the "Big Apple," let me save you some effort: "wkirsch2" at jhu.edu. Get at me. Yankees are horrible, let's go O's. Until next time.

Overall Score: 7/10

JAM Preview Playlist

By Dubray Kinney

1. "Cash Machine" by D.R.A.M.

2. "Broccoli" by D.R.A.M.

3. "Signals" by D.R.A.M.

4. "I Don't Sell Molly No More" by iLoveMakonnen

5. "I Like Tuh" by Carnage (feat. iLoveMakonnen)

6. "Big Gucci" by iLoveMakonnen

7. "No Type (Remix)" by Party Favor

8. "Bap U" by Party Favor

9. "Give It To Me Twice" by Party Favor (feat. Sean Kingston and Rich the Kid)

10. "Global Concepts" by Robert DeLong

The News-Letter's fall television round-up

By KATHERINE LOGAN
For *The News-Letter*

Six shows that are worth watching while procrastinating this school year.

1. *This Is Us* — Come for Milo Ventimiglia, stay for the heartfelt storylines

No, not the One Direction documentary. This family drama is brought to you courtesy of the mind behind the film *Crazy, Stupid, Love*, Dan Fogelman and follows the interconnected lives of several people, all celebrating their 36th birthday on the same day.

Fogelman is a master at interweaving the stories of his characters in ways that feel realistic even to more cynical audiences. Many critics are referring to this new tear-jerker as the next *Parenthood*. This show also marks the return of Milo Ventimiglia (famous for playing *Gilmore Girls'* Jess Mariano)

to TV as well as Mandy Moore's comeback.

Premiere Streaming Online, Aired on NBC Tuesdays @ 10 p.m.

2. *Atlanta* — A Rags to Riches Tale for Today?

Created by Donald Glover, a.k.a. Childish Gambino, this show follows Glover as Earn while he navigates life in his home-town of, you guessed-it, Atlanta. After dropping out of Princeton, Earn aims to help his cousin, "Paper Boi," in achieving fame and fortune in the rap industry and, in the process, to redeem himself in the eyes of his girlfriend and family.

Atlanta also serves as another example of TV's increased diversity on par with shows like *Master of None* and *Mr. Robot*. Evidently, Glover's unique vision has resonated with audiences as FX has already renewed *Atlanta* for

a second season.

Streaming on Online, Aired on FX Tuesdays @ 10 p.m.

3. *Documentary Now* — Bill Hader and Fred Armisen's Post-SNL Reunion

Between all the turmoil broadcasted in the news and the stresses of life at Hopkins, sometimes you just need a good laugh. As someone that loved watching *SNL* when it included such hilarious cast-members as Kristen Wigg, Seth Myers, Bill Hader and Fred Armisen, *Documentary Now* is a welcome comedy fix.

Each episode of this series is an extended skit spoofing a famous documentary like *Grey Gardens* or HBO's *Vice* that promises to leave you with a stomachache from laughing so hard.

Season 1 Streaming on Netflix, Current Season — Aired on IFC Wednesdays @

10 p.m.

4. *Insecure* — Here's to Strong Women Telling Their Own Stories

Following in the footsteps of other female writers with their own shows such as Tina Fey, Amy Schumer and Mindy Kaling, Issa Rae, the creator of the YouTube series *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl*, is debuting her show *Insecure* on HBO this fall.

If you're looking for an honest, nuanced depiction of female relationships and the struggle to figure out the balance between success in one's work and personal life (something all of us here at Hopkins can relate to) be sure to check this show out. Another plus: Rae is already getting kudos for the series' fabulous soundtrack.

Streaming on HBO GO now, Premieres on HBO October 9th @ 10:30 p.m.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Love and Darkness showcases Portman's skill



MIRA/CC-BY-SA 2.0
Natalie Portman wrote, directed and starred in *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, currently in theaters.

BY ANNE
HOLLMULLER
Staff Writer

A Tale of Love and Darkness is the directorial debut of Academy Award-winning actress Natalie Portman, who is a triple threat as the film's star, director and screenwriter. The film is based on the early life of Amos Oz, a prominent modern Israeli novelist. The film depicts his life as a young boy living in Jerusalem with his mother and father during the founding years of the State of Israel. Portman was born in Israel and returned there for the setting of this film, which has a screenplay almost entirely in Hebrew.

Young Amos (Amir Tesler) lives in Jerusalem with his parents in the British Mandate of Palestine following the end of World War II. This land will later become the state of Israel. Amos is a quiet child, bookish like his parents, who adjusts to the stark realities of daily life in an embattled city. His mother, Fania (Portman), is a survivor of the Holocaust. She is

a learned, yearning woman and the emotional center of the story while she tells tales to her young son. His father, Arieh (Gilad Kahana), is an academic and a failed writer, a man who cares deeply for his family but cannot offer comfort or solace to his stifled wife.

Fania fled to Israel with her family from a town in Poland, later Ukraine, where thousands of Jews, nearly everyone she knew, were murdered in the Holocaust. Fania tells her son stories, often macabre and always melancholy, of the small town where she and her sisters were raised, which all seem to inevitably end in tragic death. She vividly dreams of the pioneer of Israel, a brilliant, strapping and vigorous young man to represent the Zionist homeland. The crushing disappointments and brutal traumas of her life, coupled with severe depression, drive her to commit suicide at the age of 38.

Amos is the narrator of the film, and the young boy is a witness to the way in which history acts on both

his family and his people. The disappointed dreams of his mother are also those of the people who had hoped that the new state could be founded and held without bloodshed, who find that turmoil and unrest continue to plague the region.

Perhaps the strongest scene within the film is an interaction between Amos and a young Palestinian girl, Aisha (Salina Daw). The pair shares a gentle, sweet conversation in which the two precocious children discuss Hebrew poetry. The scene feels more natural than some of the more stylized portions of the film, and the way in which the juvenile interaction becomes dark and violent is a sign of the rising tensions between Palestinian and Jewish adults.

A Tale of Love and Darkness is a quiet, intellectual film with few tears, preferring a literate, verbose sensibility over that of a weepy family melodrama. The film also avoids historical epic, remaining sparse in its depictions of violence and utilizing only a few reels of newsreel footage to create a sense of what was occurring outside the walls of the family's home.

This film is perhaps too elegantly made and too literary, so much so that Young Amos is often left to describe feelings

Mndsgn constructs layered, grimy sound

BODY WASH, FROM B3
compositions. Most of his music is dreamlike and ethereal — reminiscent of floating. Building on a few chords and a simple drum loop, Mndsgn layers filters, tones and samples until the soundscape is full.

With *Body Wash*, Mndsgn drops the trademark haziness of his past projects altogether. He builds layered, well mixed and absolutely flawless tracks, eschewing the dusty, grimy sounding production style. The project's high production value is astounding — it just sounds expensive. Each instrument has enough space on the mix to be clearly distinguished, the bass knocks through the middle tones and the drums are always perfectly nestled under the instrumentation.

Along with tightening up the production, Mndsgn also worked to create music with better structure and more direction. While Mndsgn's mixtapes are full of experimental, basic and short loops with unorthodox rhythms, *Body Wash* has distinct songs with fundamental grooves that end with satisfying conclusions. While it is disappointing that Mndsgn isn't playing around as much, the focus on structure does generally make better songs. This is a consistently great album but not a very diverse one.

This project involves a lot of vocal melodies as well. Mndsgn's trademark singing style persists. Using heavy filters, he augments his voice into a robotic, swooping tone that rings above the flood of smooth synths and the flat bass. The voice adds more sounds to the already heavy soundscape and forms some beautiful harmo-

nies. While a lot of the tracks on this album are experiments in over-production and excessively clean mixes, the simplest songs still ring true. Mndsgn does best with a basic melody and a basic loop. The whole Searchin series of tracks is a phenomenal streak of simple, beautiful instrumental music.

"Searchin I (4 that Familiar Feeling)," succeeds as a song just off of the phenomenal drum groove and the catchy, bouncing synth lines. "Searchin II (4 Sumthin New)" is a bass driven, springy song with a simple, knocking drum riff that builds into a crescendo of synths and high trills. "Searchin III (4 Nothin Else)" is a smooth, vibrant track broken up by hand claps and rattling high hats.

The project ends beautifully, with the slow "Guess It's All Over," a meandering, string driven track that flows almost like a dirge. The violins slide around the scale as the drums pound and a clean synth sets the rhythm and the harmony. With this song, Mndsgn mourns the fall from the funky high.

Body Wash is an incredible undertaking. Mndsgn, the quirky, left-field producer who largely works through experimentation has made one of the best modern funk albums. With a great ear for sounds, a phenomenal understanding of rhythm and groove and some nearly perfect audio production and mixing, Mndsgn blew past expectations. While this is one of his most standard projects, it is probably his most cohesive and best complete work.

Ricks' talk advocates honesty in language

READ, FROM B3
a discipline he described as 'tactless.' Tact, he explained, is important to authors and critics because it protects the words of the author from misinterpretation.

Ricks has built his career around emphasizing principle in his criticism, but his message received some resistance from members of the audience who challenged his perspective on philosophy. He clarified that great works of literature bring discordant qualities into balance with many dimensions of comprehension. Tact, or attention to word choice, allows great authors to successfully bring these many understandings together according to him.

In a conversation with *The News-Letter* after the lecture, Ricks elaborated on the importance of tact.

"I try to teach students to be honest, including honest in their use of language," he said. "I've objected to the failure of these standards when you get a letter from the administration, because it comes up with forms of words which are not really honest."

Ricks referred to his ongoing legal battle with Boston University, where he teaches, to emphasize his point that administrations often dictate language in a dishonest manner to suit their purposes.

"I just published a great long article which quotes things that have been written and said by

the dean and the president," he said. "It had to be 'legalled,' as they say."

Though Ricks did not elaborate on the contents of the article, his struggle with the administration of Boston University exemplifies the real-life applications of the principles he teaches.

"One of the ways in which people cheat is sometimes by leaving out a very important consideration which will change the whole picture," Ricks said.

Ricks' efforts to teach his students the importance of honesty is hardly out of place at Hopkins, the motto of which is *Veritas vos Liberabit*, or, "The truth will set you free." Ricks commented on this alignment between his ideas and the message of the University.

"Artists are interested in inspiration," he said. "Hopkins was interested in the critical way in which you would try to explain to somebody why a piece doesn't seem to be inspired."

As a literary critic, he has adopted the University's sentiment, searching for honesty, or 'tact,' as he has come to call it, in works of literature. This principle has also become the foundation of his teaching.

There can be no doubt that Sir Christopher Ricks' critical skill is well developed, but what distinguishes his criticism is his unique approach grounded in principles of honesty.

Book festival offers students a literary retreat

By KATHERINE
LOGAN &
CARVER BAIN
For *The News-Letter*

"Don't get stuck in the Hopkins bubble!" This is a phrase Hopkins students have heard over and over, one that is drilled into many heads during orientation. "That's not going to happen to me," most proclaim to themselves internally. Fast forward three weeks and sometimes new students don't travel farther than the Starbucks on St. Paul Street.

That thing just hasn't come along yet — the thing that can spark intellectual intrigue and draw book-lovers out of the library for more than an hour during late night: The Baltimore Book Festival at the Inner Harbor. The annual festival spanned the weekend of Sept 23- 25 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

Many students have been to festivals before, sure — festivals for theatre, festivals for food, festivals celebrating all kinds of things — but never books.

That being said, the title leaves much to be desired. What would a book festival be like? Would there be book-

themed rides? People parading around in book costumes? Bobbing for novels? A page maze? It's difficult to guess.

The truth is simpler than it seems, which is that there are books. Lots of books. Some of the programming partners of this year's book festival included the CityLit Project, the Johns Hopkins University Press, Red Emma's Bookstore Coffeehouse and the Ivy Bookshop.

Mandering along the countless booths that lined up on the edge of the Harbor, viewers expect the stacks of literature to come to an end, but they never seemed to. The books cover every subject you could imagine. There were books on and by presidential candidates (past and present), books entitled with racial slurs and books on topics like the Flint Michigan water crisis alongside children's books.

On one level, this annual book festival can feel overwhelming, with over 100 exhibitors and book-sellers, readings on mul-

tiple stages and various workshops. Out of only a small fraction of the literature in the world, there was more in this one place than one could hope to read in a lifetime of reading. This feeling could leave a bibliophile somewhat downtrodden, wandering through the endless stacks of pages.

But of course, that has never been the goal. No one individual can hope to read everything. It is most useful, then, to stop looking at the forests and instead focus on the trees.

The wonderful thing about a book festival is the multitudes it contains. Not only can one experience the perspective of a playwright from the 1600s, one can also experience the perspective of someone growing up in destitute communities in the 21st century.

Along with diverse literature, the festival also incorporates live elements, featuring music and cooking displays as well as live poetry readings.

Due to our fast-paced

lives nowadays, it can be difficult to slow down and read a book every once in a while. Wandering around the festival, however, a spectator can see hope for the future.

Given the way our current era can seem characterized by instability and fear both at home and abroad, there is something heartwarming about seeing all the young families at the festival. Even if they were there only at their parents' insistence, kids could experience the value and beauty of a tangible novel despite the vast amount of technology available to them.

We all fall victim to the notion that there simply aren't enough hours in the day to devote time to picking up a new piece of prose or poetry. Here at Hopkins, this is only exacerbated by the high volume and intensity of the reading we have due for our classes.

Despite this, the Baltimore Book Festival inspires viewers to peek at the books instead of pushing them aside in the favor of textbooks. Obviously, this won't be realistic all the time, but reading a few chapters of something different and refreshing each week will, perhaps counter-intuitively, reduce students stress levels overall.

CARTOONS, ETC.

Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



Fall

By Erica Schwarz



WANTED:

The News-Letter is looking for students to contribute to the Cartoons section! Cartoons, puzzles, weekly comic strips, sketches and drawings: We can publish them all right here!

If you have any questions or have work to submit, please email cartoons@jhunewsletter.com.



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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MedHacks unites a community of hackers

By SARAH Y. KIM
For The News-Letter

The University hosted its second-annual student-run medical hackathon MedHacks this past weekend at the Bloomberg Center for Physics and Astronomy. The event brought together over 350 student hackers from the Hopkins community and beyond to discuss solutions for pressing health care issues.

The event drew a greater number of applicants this year compared to last year. While 400 students applied last year, about 1,500 students applied to MedHacks 2.0. It was also the University's most productive hackathon to date, with the participants producing 48 projects in total.

The event began with participants forming teams and then devising projects which they would present to judges at the end of the weekend. The hackathon drew to a close with presentations from a total of 10 finalists, after which a panel of six judges selected the top three projects. Hopkins students contributed to two of the three projects that made it to the final round. The first-place team won \$1,000, while the second-place and

third-place teams were awarded \$750 and \$500, respectively.

The first-place team devised an app called Salutem that would help health facilities quickly and accurately identify the locations of people requiring immediate medical attention.

Hopkins graduate student Arman Mosenia, who was part of the Salutem team, discussed his team's reasons for addressing the issue of frequently slow and inaccurate location identification.

"One of our teammates used to be an emergency medical technician (EMT) and had faced this issue many times," Mosenia said. "Hearing his personal stories made us interested as well. When



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
After completing their health-related projects, participants presented to different judges.

we looked into it further, we noticed it was a well-known problem and became determined to tackle it at MedHacks."

In contrast to other medical hackathons, MedHacks does not have participants organized into teams prior to the event. Instead, individual students from various schools and areas of study form teams based on shared interest in a specific issue.

Sophomore Eric Huang, one of the two chief organizers, spoke to *The News-Letter* about the problem-and-solution pitch, the key strategy MedHacks uses to initiate team formation.

"We gather the participants into rooms with whiteboards and roundtables, and we encourage them to state problems they've seen in health

care," Huang said. "They go up to the stage, write a problem on the board and present ideas. People with interest in the same ideas would go up and form solutions on the spot. That way you have people who are interested in the same thing physically at the same location and then they're talking to each other."

Huang also touched on how MedHacks worked to incorporate people from various fields of study.

"The main core is making it really interdisciplinary," he said. "Most hackathons have a paradigm of computer science majors or engineers. They're very engineer-heavy. What we wanted to do was connect these people with people from public health or

SEE MEDHACKS, PAGE B9

Georgetown professor breaks down the brain

By CATHY NIE
For The News-Letter

Maximilian Riesenhuber, a professor of Neuroscience at the Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., spoke about hierarchical processing involved in object recognition and deep learning in the brain as well as their implications for Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology on Sept. 25 in Krieger Hall.

During his talk, Riesenhuber discussed his research involving the neural mechanisms underlying object recognition as well as combining computational modeling with human behavioral electroencephalograms and functional magnetic resonance imaging experiments.

He outlined experiments involving the recognition of words by shape rather than spelling and the brain's hierarchical processing from object-tuned units to task units.

Understanding these natural mechanisms, he believes, could help improve AI systems in engineering, as they lagged behind the brain in flexibility and robustness. *The News-Letter* had the opportunity to interview Riesenhuber after his talk.

The News-Letter: What inspired you to pursue research about learning?

Maximilian Riesenhuber:

Arguably, learning is key to understanding intelligent behavior. As my former mentor Tomaso Poggio put it, "humans are the least hardwired beings on earth." Learning is crucial for survival — to distinguish friend from foe, food from non-food and other essentials — but it's also foundational for human culture, to do science, etc.

We constantly learn from others, from our environment (especially when that environment is Hopkins — lots to learn there). And thanks to research in cognitive science and cognitive neuroscience, we are not only understanding better how the human mind and brain learn, but also how these insights can be translated into facilitating learning, for example, in education.

N-L: What kind of impact do you think your findings might have on technology in the future, especially concerning AI?

MR: The current "deep learning" success in AI has drawn heavily from insights in neuroscience, and as we are understanding better how the brain learns, in particular how the brain's processing architecture can allow learning with much more flexibility and efficiency than current schemes, it should likewise help inspire more powerful learning

SEE COLLOQUIUM, PAGE B9

Intestinal tissue repair fosters bacteria growth

By LAWANYA SINGH
For The News-Letter

When you feel sick after a meal, it could be due to your own body's tissue-repair mechanism. Scientists at the University of California Davis School of Medicine have discovered that certain microorganisms known as enteric pathogens, located in the digestive tract of humans, can cause harm to our bodies, instead of repairing the damages due to a food-borne illness.

Our digestive tract is home to millions of different types of bacteria. In our large intestine, gut pathogens must be able to survive in an oxygen-free environment, either by conducting anaerobic metabolism or by producing their own oxygen. Certain enteric pathogens and microorganisms, such as *Escherichia coli* in humans or *Citrobacter rodentium* in mice, can cause disease. These specific species of

bacteria need oxygen to survive and new research has revealed how these two pathogens are able to manipulate the gut's environment to help themselves grow.

According to the UC Davis research team, the bacteria can produce virulence factors, molecules that allow the organism to attach itself on or within a host. The virulence factors can actually cause major harm to our digestive tract, and can result with symptoms such as diarrhea.

Once this happens, the body's repair mechanism seeks to increase the amount of epithelial cells that make up the lining of mucus membranes. In this process, immature cells, which contain oxygen, are made. The rapid increase of oxygen levels in the digestive tract is exactly what allows the enteric pathogens to grow and the beneficial anaerobic microbes to die. Therefore, the body's way of fixing

SEE BACTERIA, PAGE B8



ERIC ERBE/CC-BY 4.0

Certain gut bacteria in human intestines are shown to cause disease.

Stable compounds found in interior of gas giants

By ELAINE CHIAO
For The News-Letter

Gas giants are massive planets that consist of a significant amount of hydrogen and helium gases, with only a comparatively tiny terrestrial core in the center. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are the four unique gas giants that exist in our very own Solar System. Recently, a group of combined scientists from the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MIPT) and the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology (Skoltech) in Russia successfully utilized computer modeling to detect inherently stable molecules that might be present in the interiors of Uranus and Neptune.

This discovery was made by a team led by Professor Artem R. Oganov and Gabriele Saleh, two researchers from the MIPT and pioneers in their respective fields of computational materials and chemistry.

"The smaller gas giants — Uranus and Neptune — consist largely of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen," Oganov said in a press release.

These three elements are the foundational building blocks of not only compounds on Earth, but also compounds found on many other extraterrestrial planets. Under a very intricate combination of temperature and pressure, carbon, hydrogen

and oxygen can form complex molecules such as carbonic acid and clathrate (a type of co-crystal made up of hydrogen and methane) which have just been found to roam near the core of the smaller gas giants.

On the other hand, these compounds simply cannot thrive in abundant amounts on Earth because Earth's atmosphere renders them inherently unstable. Indeed it is significantly harder for these specific polymers to naturally form on Earth compared to Uranus and Neptune.

"The chemical composition of every planet's atmosphere is very different. Uranus and Neptune have a much greater atmospheric pressure than Earth does, so it is reasonable for different atmospheres to catalyze different chemical reactions," Mubdi Rahman, an Associate Research Scientist working in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, said.

Beyond the scopes of Neptune and Uranus, there are also icy satel-



JCPAG/CC-BY-SA 2.0
Scientists have detected complex molecules in the core of Neptune, one of the gas giants.

lites — such as Jupiter's moon, Europa — that have sufficient conditions to form carbonic acid. An icy satellite is essentially covered by a thick layer of ice on the surface, and underneath the surface there is an ocean that surrounds a rocky core.

Rahman is currently a researcher at Hopkins with a specialized focus in star formations, and he pointed out the possibility that underwater life could still exist under the icy surface of Europa despite the extreme temperatures.

"The most impressive thing I find about gas giants is that they give us insight into what our Solar System looked like when it was in the early stages of formation," Rahman said.

Because gas giants

are so massive, they are able to trap most of the gases within their atmosphere. This almost serves as a time capsule that allows scientists and astronomers to examine the early conditions in planet formation that can no longer be found on Earth.

Researchers like Oganov and Saleh had specifically chosen Neptune and Uranus as their target planets because these gas giants contain the three cornerstones of organic chemistry — hydrogen, carbon and oxygen. With more advances in computational imaging and technology, scientists might be able to confirm the existence of other previously obscured compounds hidden in the depths of Neptune and Uranus in the very near future.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Synesthesia heightens connections between sensory experiences



JASON PERSSE/CA-BY-2.0

A handful of famous artists like Kanye West experience synesthesia, the mixing of senses.

By RAYYAN JOKHAI
Staff Writer

Researchers from Emory University have discovered that people who experience synesthesia, the mixing of senses, are more sensitive to associations between shapes and the sound of words.

Synesthesia, a trait found in between one and four percent of the population, is an inheritable condition that, in its most common form, causes people to draw connections between particular colors, words, numbers or sounds. Many famous artists and composers, such as Michel Gagné and Kanye West, have shared their experiences with the condition, and the most common is-

sues synesthetes report are difficulties associated with reading.

The team of Emory University researchers, led by neurologist Dr. Krish Sathian, asked a group of 17 synesthetes and 18 controls to complete implicit association tests (IAT). While the test is often used to elicit hidden prejudices such as sexism, racism and homophobia, the IAT is also equipped to assess "crossmodal perceptions."

A crossmodal perception, or cross-modal correspondence, is a connection formed between two or more different sensory modalities. This phenomenon is quite prevalent in our daily lives. One example of a cross-modal correspondence is the association of

dimensional space where sound cannot physically be. Similarly, studies have shown that we are more likely to associate soft letter sounds, such as "m" and "l," with round shapes, and hard letter sounds, like "k" and "t," with angular shapes.

Sathian says that there is still much debate in the scientific field regarding synesthesia. Some question whether the associations synesthetes have are entirely different from what the rest of the population experiences, or if their experiences are just more extreme, more frequent versions of cross-modal correspondences.

Participants in the study were recruited through advertisements on the Emory campus and self-identified as synesthetes. Each prospective participant took an online test called the Synesthesia Battery to confirm whether or not he or she had consistent associations.

To determine whether or not people with synesthesia were more sensitive to purely sensory associations between sound pitch and size or position of shapes, the research team tested and monitored the time of the associations

between congruent and incongruent pairs of sounds and spacial positions. Examples of congruent pairs include a high pitch with a high position in space or a low pitch with a low position in space. If there was a significant difference in response time between congruent and incongruent pairs, the scientists would conclude that people with synesthesia were more sensitive to purely sensory associations between pitch and shapes.

From the data collected, Sathian and his team observed that people with synesthesia are more sensitive to correspondences between the sounds of pseudowords, words that have no meaning in English, and shapes. This suggests that the effects of their synesthesia have an impact on other parts of their neural networks and are connecting sounds, not just colors, to different sensory cues.

The team also observed that there was no significant difference in the purely sensory association domain. This means that the time differences between associations of congruent and incongruent pairs were not significant enough to suggest that synesthesia had an effect on response time.

The most common form of synesthesia in the Emory study was "grapheme-color," the association between visual symbols and colors. This often originates in an individual's childhood depending on how symbols, letters especially, are learned at a young age. For instance, a previous study had confirmed that a popular brand of refrigerator alphabet magnets had an influence on the associations people with grapheme-color synesthesia developed.

Previous brain imaging studies have shown that people with synesthesia are wired differently

and have increased neural connections between the senses, which is what causes their unusual sensory experiences. These hyperconnections, based upon Dr. Sathian's study, have an effect on other neural connections that synesthetes have.

As such, we can expect

that in the future, scientists will continue to pursue the origins of synesthesia to develop a better understanding of its effects, in the hopes that any new findings can be applied to create better therapies for those with learning difficulties or individuals devoid of certain senses.

Neuroscience professor speaks at colloquium

COLLOQUIUM, FROM B7 algorithms for AI, that, for example, are better at leveraging prior learning to learn new concepts, that can learn from fewer examples, or that can better deal with real-world variability.

N-L: Why do you believe somatosensation is the next frontier for research in the field?

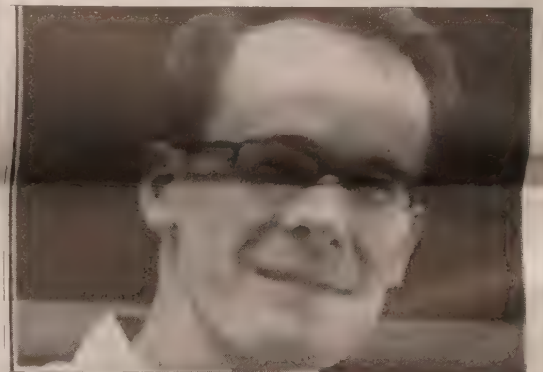
MR: It's really an under-explored sense. We know a lot about vision and audition because they are comparatively easy to study. Somatosensation is more difficult in that respect.

On the other hand, your skin is your biggest receptor, and we know that we can do amazing things with our tac-

tile sense – just think of Braille reading. Understanding touch is also interesting from an applied point of view, as it's a sensory channel that's not used much in current user interfaces.

But this is changing as people are realizing the potential of transmitting information through touch, with new devices like the Apple watch or even dedicated devices like the Moment from Somatic Labs.

Maximilian Riesenhuber, who has received several awards, including an NSF CAREER Award and a McDonnell-Pew Award in Cognitive Neuroscience, hopes to investigate somatosensory learning in the future.



COURTESY OF MAXIMILIAN RIESENHUBER
Professor Riesenhuber studies deep learning and object recognition.

Gut pathogens damage human digestive tract

BACTERIA, FROM B7 damage can actually be what is causing food-borne illness in the first place.

This research, led by Andreas Bäuml, a Medical Microbiology and Immunology professor from the University of California, Davis School of Medicine, not only sheds light on how pathogens alter the gut environment but also highlights the importance of finding new routes of treatment.

Over the past decades, more bacteria have shown resistance to antibiotics. Bäuml's findings could change the direction of treatments.

"The rise of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria has become a major public health threat worldwide. As more bacterial strains do not respond to the drugs designed to kill them, the advances made in treating infectious diseases over the last 50 years are in jeopardy," Bäuml said according to a press release.

The World Health Organization states that antibiotic-resistant bacteria present a huge problem globally because medical procedures, such as surgery, could lead to life-threatening complications. These bacteria include *Clostridium difficile*, *Carbapenem enterobacteriaceae* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

Right now, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, two million people in the United States are annually diagnosed with diseases caused by bacteria resistant to antibiotics. The government of the United Kingdom has predicted that by 2050,

10 million lives could be lost. The rise of drug-resistant organisms is a cause of concern to many on the Hopkins campus as well.

"It's an issue that I think is not only current, but also one with a lasting impact and significance. The fact that organisms can develop resistance puts us in an almost endless cycle, bringing problems we thought we had previously eradicated back to the drawing board. As new problems continue to arise, re-addressing old ones could place quite a burden," Saachi Nangia, a senior public health studies and biology major, said in an interview with *The News-Letter*.

Bäuml's research raises a lot of questions about the direction of future research. New antibiotics are necessary for the rise of communicable diseases around the world, but the question becomes how effective they will be if bacteria start developing resistance.

Bäuml's findings also raise important questions on how to eradicate enteric pathogens, such as *Escherichia coli*, to prevent them from causing harm to our digestive systems.

Currently, the focus of scientific research is not only looking at how to prevent antibiotic resistance but also what effect bacteria in our gastrointestinal tract have on cancer, obesity, behavior, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

Fixing the problems associated with bacteria can solve a major public health problem and hopefully lead to fewer lives lost to these condi-

Persevering over failed science experiments



Duy Phan
The Brain Wave

Society paints scientists as absolute genius freaks. If you tell people that you are a scientist, people may automatically assume that your IQ must be higher than Mount Everest. The public has an image of ideas and discoveries just flowing out easily from the great minds of science.

While it is certainly true that science requires a degree of intelligence, there is one often overlooked factor that truly separates the winners from the losers: the ability to not give a sh*t.

This is especially true for people doing laboratory bench research that requires hours and hours of hands-on experiments.

The ability to not give a sh*t does not mean that you should not care about science. In fact, you need to absolutely love science and pay special attention to your experiments and results. What I really mean is that you need to learn not to give a sh*t

when science is not going the way you want.

Lab work is hard and frustrating. Most experiments do not conform to an expected hypothesis. I myself spent two painful years fumbling around in the lab until I finally figured out the best way to perform a specific scientific protocol to study adult neural stem cells. There were countless times when I felt frustrated and questioned my own abilities.

Those times of frustration and shedding blood, sweat and tears were not fun. But, as a post-doc once told me in a lab, "You have not experienced real science until you truly struggle."

I believe that running into problems is very much a part of character-building for anyone who is considering science as a career. Many undergraduates who just began doing lab bench research are less likely to run into trouble, as they are guided by an experienced post-doc or advanced graduate student.

However, the real science begins when the undergraduate student is given an independent project in which he or she has to figure out everything for him or herself. By everything, I mean everything from coming up with the research question

and hypothesis, designing experiments to test the hypothesis, doing the experiments, analyzing the data and writing the paper.

Before coming to Hopkins, I had independent projects to work on. Although I had massive amounts of work to do, most of the experiments went by rather smoothly

as the protocols I needed to perform were well-established in the lab. Great, no major issues.

When I came to Hopkins, I wanted to continue my research interest in neural stem cells, so I delved into a project to investigate the influence of stress on development of stem cells in the hippocampus. Although this project was also independent, the big difference here was that I had to establish everything myself, coming in as the first person in a circadian rhythms research lab to seriously study adult neurogenesis.

Suddenly, everything was not so smooth any more. I knew my question and hypothesis, but I had no clue how to conduct the experiments. How

much chemical compound do I inject? What markers should I use? When should I perform injections? I read dozens and dozens of papers to find the answer and spent an enormous amount of time in the lab — 30 hours per week during the school year — trying out the experiments.

At first, I really thought that I had made a mistake. I questioned why I should continue running myself into a wall, regretting that I did not choose an easier project to do.

Two years later, I realize that this time of struggle was some of my most valuable time spent doing undergraduate research. Struggling in the lab by myself taught me to be more resilient and learn how to solve problems. Most importantly, these difficulties have shown me the blood, sweat and tears that go behind the beautiful figures in scientific papers.

To do science well, it is necessary to learn how to embrace the struggles in the lab. When your experiments come out well, it will feel much more wonderful.

To do science well, it is necessary to learn how to embrace the struggles in the lab.

Student hackers come together for Medhacks

FROM MEDHACKS, B7 neuroscience. Our vision was that the computer science majors and engineers would have the technical expertise, but the public health and neuroscience majors would have the actual health knowledge."

Huang discussed what his team's vision had been for this year's MedHacks: for the hackathon to branch out beyond the Hopkins community.

"We wanted to expand MedHacks from a regional to a truly national hackathon," Huang said. "I think we actually reached that goal this year. There's a huge [number] of schools, including Carnegie Mellon, Columbia, Stanford. Way too many to list."

The greater diversity and number of participants are due primarily to MedHacks' recent partnership with Major League Hacking (MLH), an organization responsible for promoting hackathons across the country. By becoming an MLH event, MedHacks was able to attract a more diverse group of applicants: half of the participants were Hopkins students, while the other half were from other parts of the country or even abroad.

Students such as Hopkins senior Steven Doria found that the combination of the problem and solution pitch and the greater diversity of participants this year proved a rewarding and challenging learning experience.

"I learned a lot about working with a team," Doria said. "This was the most diverse group of people that I've done a project with, and it was interesting to see what everyone brought to the table. I would say the hardest part was coherently putting all our work together."

In addition to a diversity of student participants, MedHacks also brought

together a multitude of doctors from world renowned hospitals, including Hopkins' own strong network of doctors.

"They're the ones walking around talking with students, giving their feedback based off of their years of professional experience," Huang said. "That's the one area where we have a really big advantage, since we have so many medical professionals here that I would say other medical hackathons may not have."

The event was also an opportunity for students to attend workshops held by representatives from companies like Redox and Johnson & Johnson. In addition, they were able to interact with entrepreneurs such as Hopkins alumnus Dave McClure, Founder of 500 Startups, who was invited to the event as a keynote speaker for the opening ceremony. During his presentation, McClure discussed his company, his struggles figuring out what he wanted to do prior to his company's formation and the importance of risk-taking.

McClure's presentation was followed by keynote speaker Karthik Prasad, chief of staff and business development at Nuna Inc. Prasad examined flaws in today's health care system and what could be done address them.

"It takes three months for a doctor to sit in their back office, file a claim, for that claim to go to an insurance company and for that insurance company to do something about it," Prasad told hackers last Friday. "Now imagine if you upped the stakes and it's a surgery or a visit to the ER. Those things matter. Being able to understand when and how people use healthcare in a more real time basis. Think about that as you're hacking away this weekend. Sometimes it's the simple solutions."



COURTESY OF KUNAL MAITI

Students work together in teams on health-related coding projects.

FDA bans antiseptics in consumer products

By WILLIAM XIE
For The News-Letter

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently issued a ban prohibiting the sale of consumer antibacterial soaps containing antiseptics the FDA deemed "not generally recognized as safe and effective." This final ruling solidified a proposed rule published in the Federal Register of Dec. 17, 2013.

The primary justification for the ban was a benefit-to-risk assessment. The U.S. consumer setting has users who are generally healthy and have a low risk and scope of infection compared to a healthcare setting. The benefits of antiseptics for consumers are also in question.

"Consumers may think antibacterial washes are more effective at preventing the spread of germs, but we have no scientific evidence that they are any better than plain soap and water," Dr. Janet Woodcock, the director of the FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said in the FDA report.

Numerous studies concluded that widespread use of triclosan increases bacterial resistance and include hormonal effects. The continued widespread use of antiseptics causes concern for public health.

The FDA identified and disallowed 19 different active ingredients. Triclosan and triclocar-



USDA/CC-BY-SA 2.0

Antibacterial triclosan hand washes have shown to increase bacterial resistance and hormonal effects.

ban, two heavily marketed antimicrobials, were among the banned ingredients. According to a 1999 study, triclosan and triclocarban were present in 75 percent of liquid soaps and 29 percent of bar soaps. Approximately 45 percent of all soaps included these two chemicals. It is estimated that these numbers are even more prevalent in today's market.

The agency said manufacturers have a year to change their ingredients or take their products off the shelf.

Some advocates in the soap industry immediately challenged the FDA report. In the American Cleaning Institute review of triclosan, Richard Sedlak, senior vice president of technical and international affairs said, "Antibacterial hand washes provide a public health benefit by reducing or eliminating pathogenic

bacteria on the skin to a significantly greater degree than plain soap and water."

Interested parties requested for more time to submit studies supporting the safety and efficiency of several chemicals. The ruling on the following three chemicals: benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride and chloroxylenol were deferred. Products consisting of these chemicals may remain on the market.

Instead of fighting to keep the banned chemicals, several well-known manufacturers such as Colgate-Palmolive, Avon, Procter & Gamble and Johnson & Johnson, have already been moving away from using chemicals like triclosan as early as 2014.

The ruling is limited to products considered "consumer antiseptic washes." This can include

various products used with water such as hand soaps and body washes. The ban does not affect the uses of the aforementioned ingredients in healthcare antiseptics, "first aid antiseptics" and antiseptics used in the food industry.

The agency reported a primary estimated reduction of 799,426 pounds of triclosan per year and 1.4 million pounds of triclocarban per year. According to the report, "The primary estimate of costs annualized over 10 years is approximately \$23.6 million at a 3 percent discount rate and \$27.6 million at a 7 percent discount rate."

There is also an estimated \$106.3 to \$402.8 million cost for relabeling and reformulation.

The agency also is proposing a follow-up ruling on over-the-counter consumer antiseptic rubs, such as alcohol wipes.

Study analyzes effect of genetically modified crops

By FERNANDO VICENTE
For The News-Letter

From soda to soup, crackers to condiments, it has been determined that more than 75 percent of processed food on our supermarket shelves contain genetically engineered (GE) ingredients.

In order to study the effects of these mass-produced GE crops, four economists — David A. Hennessy, GianCarlo Moschini, Edward D. Perry, and Federico Ciliberto — from Michigan State University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University and the University of Virginia, respectively, recorded farm data from 1998 to 2011.

The research encompasses more than 5,000 soybean and 5,000 maize farmers in the U.S. In comparison to other studies that historically use one or two years of data, the longevity of this novel research speaks for itself as comprehensive and prominent.

"The fact that we have 14 years of farm-level data from farmers all over the U.S. makes this study very special," Ciliberto of the University of Virginia said in an article published in *UVA Today*. "We have repeated observations of the same farmers and can see when they adopted genetically modified seeds and how that changed their use of chemicals."

Traditionally, farmers

modified two genes in maize: an insecticide, in order to kill insects that eat its seed, and a herbicide-resistant gene. However, some crops, like the soybean, historically only receive the herbicide-resistant attribute.

According to the collected data, adoption of GE led to a consistent decline in the use of insecticides when farming maize since 2000.

Both maize and soy crops, however, experienced an increase in herbicide use within the last five years, with the GE soybean farmers reporting a more severe upwards trend in the use of herbicide. These findings reveal that weed resistance to herbicides is starting to become an issue.

"Evidence suggests that weeds are becoming more resistant and farmers are having to use additional chemicals, and more of them," Ciliberto said in a press release.

Even though the use of insecticides has decreased, the researchers commented that GE adoption for soybean herbicides can still have a significant, detrimental effect on the environment. In fact, continued growth in herbicide use is a huge threat to the environment as such large doses of chemicals can decrease biodiversity and increase water and air pollution.

"Hence, the generality of their results is limited, and they cannot shed light on whether the impact of GE variety adoption on pesticide use has changed over time. In particular, there have been little data to assess whether the recent development of glyphosate-resistant weeds has eroded whatever herbicide use benefits there may have been from GT crops" reads the economists' research article published in *Science Advances*.

The research becomes increasingly relevant with the invention and recent development of CRISPR-cas9, an efficient genetic engineering tool for gene modification. In contrast to the traditional GE crops, in which added genes can foster growth of herbicide-resistant weeds, the CRISPR-cas9 avoids the addition and enables the cutting or deletion of specific sequences.

With this invention, U.S. regulators are scrambling to catch up with the CRISPR technology. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has declared that it will not hold CRISPR corn to the same standards as traditional GE crops.

Nevertheless, the chemical giant DuPont Pioneer plans to advance the treatment of crops with this CRISPR-cas9 technology and bring it to market in the near future.

July and August tie for hottest months on record

By ADARSHA MALLA
Senior Staff Writer

This past July and August have tied each other for the hottest months on Earth since NASA's record-keeping began in 1880. The past two months boast temperatures averaging 0.84 degrees Celsius (1.27 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the earth's average temperature.

Records from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which uses different parameters and methods than NASA to record global temperatures, show the record-breaking temperature trend has been going on for 14 months.

"The scary thing is that we are moving into an era where it will be a surprise

when each new month or year isn't one of the hottest on record," Chris Field, a climate change scientist at the Carnegie Institute and Stanford University, said according to *News.com*.

"Whether one year is 0.1 degree warmer than any other — it doesn't mean too much," Gavin Schmidt, NASA's director for Goddard Institute of Space Studies told *The Atlantic*. "The main issue is the long term trend shows the planet is one degree Celsius — almost two degrees Fahrenheit — warmer than it was during the 19th century. That has a very large impact on polar ice, on agriculture, on coastal erosion, on water safety. It's a century-long trend at this point."

Additionally, a study

published on September 26, 2016 in *Nature* contains global temperature records extending two million years into the past — the longest continuous data set ever published. The study examines data from ocean-sediment cores and climate models to estimate global average surface temperatures.

Lead author Carolyn Snyder and her team at the Climate Protection Partnerships Division of the US Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. examined the relationship between past temperatures and carbon-dioxide levels from Antarctic ice cores. From this data, her team concluded that the long term damage by greenhouse gases may be a lot more severe than we

expect. Even if the current carbon-dioxide levels were to stay approximately the same, average global temperatures may increase by approximately five degrees Celsius over the next few millennia.

If the pre-industrial CO2 levels double as they are expected to in the next few decades, the global average temperature could be boosted by around nine degrees Celsius.

Schmidt enjoys his research and the attention climate change is getting, but he hopes to see a real push for change in the next few decades.

"We like anniversaries and records, but what the world is doing while we talk is changing," Schmidt told *The Atlantic*. "And that's the big takeaway."

"Farmers are having to use additional chemicals, and more of them."

—FEDERICO CILIBERTO, UVA

SPORTS

Five undefeated NFL teams survive week four



KEITH ALLISON/CC BY-SA 2.0
New England Patriots remain undefeated despite being without future hall-of-famer Tom Brady.

By **ANDREW JOHNSON**
Sports Editor

After three weeks of NFL action, you can usually get a pretty good sense of who is going to be contending for the Vince Lombardi Trophy at the end of the season. While some teams who start hot inevitably fizzle out due to injuries, decreased performance or a more difficult schedule, most of these early undefeated teams end up maintaining their success.

Historically, 75 percent of NFL teams who get off to a 3-0 start qualify for the postseason, the unlucky teams who have begun the year 0-3 have been all but eliminated, with only two percent qualifying in past seasons. This means that the Jaguars, Browns, Bears and Saints have all suffered this misfortune as they carry 0-3 records into week four.

The Jacksonville Jaguars carried steep expectations heading into the season, so it is unlikely that Gus Bradley and his staff will survive the year if they do not defy the odds and turn things around. Meanwhile, the normally competitive New Orleans Saints have suffered a few heartbreaking losses in tight contests. Though it is not wise to bet against Sean Payton and Drew Brees, if history is any indication, the Saints will not be ending their playoff drought this year.

On the other side of the spectrum, there are five teams who are currently sitting with unblemished marks through their first three games.

It is no surprise the New England Patriots have once again had a pristine start to the season even without Tom Brady as the face of the franchise and having to rely on rookie third stringer, Jacoby Brissett, last Thursday night against the Texans. The Patriots were utterly dominant in the shutout of a tough Texans team, making the statement that they are the commanding squad in the NFL.

Once Brady returns, I do not expect the performance of the team to deteriorate in the slightest. The scary thing is that the offense will surely improve once the future Hall of Famer is back in the lineup. The only reason the Pats' successful start to the season is even somewhat surprising is that they have been without their QB and his favorite offensive weapon, Rob Gronkowski.

The Broncos are also sporting a 3-0 record, and it would be disrespect-

ful to label the defending champs as surprising front runners.

However, the Broncos faced a tough early season slate and entered the season without #18, Peyton Manning. The results so far have been nothing short of spectacular.

Denver's defense has once again been excellent against tough Panthers and Bengals squads, while QB Trevor Siemian emerged as a revelation in his first ever road start this past weekend. Throwing for 312 yards and four touchdowns against a ferocious defense proved that Siemian has the potential to be much more than just a game manager for Denver. With their incendiary defensive talent, the Broncos must be considered a strong contender to repeat in February.

While the Broncos and Patriots are among our usual suspects and were regarded as play-off locks headed

into the year, the other three 3-0 teams have battled adversity and heavily outperformed expectations so far this season. It is almost guaranteed that at least one of these three teams will qualify for the postseason, and it would not be surprising to see at least two of the three battling well into January.

The Philadelphia Eagles began the year with a myriad of questions surrounding their squad. Gone were Chip Kelly and his innovative schemes which seemed to do more harm than good during a nightmare 2015 season. Gone too was Sam Bradford, traded to the Vikings following the injury to Teddy Bridgewater earlier this preseason. The Eagles decided to turn their present over to the future when they handed the heralded first round pick, Carson Wentz, the keys to their offense.

After a preseason filled with limited reps, Wentz has come out and played like an emerging star for this Eagles team. He has appeared poised and confident and has yet to throw an interception through three games this year. His passer rating of 103.8 is seventh in the league. The Eagles have aided their young quar-

terback with a suffocating defensive presence.

Feasting on the Browns and the Bears over the first two weeks, it was easy to attribute the success of these Birds to a very forgiving schedule. However, that all changed this past week following a 34-3 demolition of the Pittsburgh Steelers, a team who many believe is a Super Bowl frontrunner.

The Eagles dominated in all facets of the game and proved to the rest of the league that they will be a force this season. They have surrendered an NFL best 9.0 points per contest, and their plus 65 point differential is tops in the league so far. As much as it pains me to say it, the Eagles are for real. And no, this is not a jinx in any way, shape or form — I swear.

The Baltimore Ravens

have also defied expectations en route to a perfect start early in the season. Following a

disastrous 5-11 campaign a year ago, which saw franchise quarterback Joe Flacco, running back Justin Forsett, wide receiver Steve Smith Sr. and tight end Dennis Pitta all lost for the year, the Ravens have responded by winning tight contests and playing suffocating defense.

The Ravens are not a flashy team and will probably not blowout many teams, but they are gritty, tough and make the kind of plays in critical moments that win football games.

Down 17-16 to the Jaguars with less than 2:00 on the clock last week, the Ravens blocked a 52 yard attempt which would set up at 54 yard opportunity of their own at the end of regulation.

Justin Tucker nailed the kick, as he so often

does in clutch moments and propelled the Ravens to their best start since 2009. The Ravens possess all of the elements necessary for a resurgent campaign. They have a battle-tested head coach and a quarterback with playoff experience.

Meanwhile, their defense has been one of the top units in football so far. It is never wise to bet against the Ravens or expect them to remain down for more than a season. Therefore, I believe that they will continue to win ugly and propel themselves into postseason play.

The Minnesota Vikings are the last of the 3-0 teams remaining in the NFL, and their early success has also come from unlikely sources. After losing promising young quarterback Teddy Bridgewater to a gruesome knee injury during preseason, expectations for the Vikings took a major hit. Many had regarded the Vikings as legitimate title contenders heading into the season, but the loss of their young star was seen as a death blow to their postseason hopes.

However, the newly acquired Sam Bradford has been a revelation for the team, even going as far as to outduel Aaron Rodgers in a pivotal week two win against their fiercest division rival. The Vikings followed up their dominance against Green Bay with an equally impressive road performance against the defending NFC champs, the Carolina Panthers.

The Vikings offense suffered another blow when they lost star running back Adrian Peterson for possibly the remainder of the year with a meniscus injury.

The defense will surely keep the Vikings afloat, but I am concerned about their offense. I have doubts that Sam Bradford can continue his efficient play when teams no longer have to load up the box to contain Peterson.

Bradford has also been incredibly injury-prone over the course of his career, most recently missing all of 2014 with an ACL injury. If Bradford remains healthy, I think the Vikings' defense is good enough to make them a contender. Nevertheless, due to these debilitating injuries, I believe the Vikings are the 3-0 team most likely to miss the playoffs this season.

Stay tuned next week for the individual players across the league who have most impressed and disappointed through the first quarter of the NFL season.



KEITH ALLISON/FLICKR
Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco led his team to an 3-0 start.

Hopkins sinks Navy water polo 14-8

POLO, FROM B12

Navy would open the second half with a goal, but Hopkins responded by scoring the next four goals within a span of 2:27 to go up 13-6. Freshman driver Carter Young had the first goal of the second half to begin the Jay's four goal series.

Sophomore Josh Kurtz would then score back-to-back goals, topped off by a goal from senior utility Matt Fraser. Hopkins would defeat Navy 14-8 and claim their fifth straight win against the Mids at home.

Offensively, the Jays were clearly the dominant force in the water. Wilson explained that the team's focus in the match against Navy is what contributed to their better shots.

"We were able to get better looks later in the possession, instead of taking hasty shots," he said. "As a result, we were able to control the tempo of the game, and ended up with 6 different players to combine for 14 goals."

The Jays received a number of standout performances from their young players. Kurtz and fellow sophomore Andreas Katsis would lead the field in scoring, both setting career-highs with four goals each in the match.

Sophomore Giorgio Cico also contributed five goals through the night with a pair of his own goals and team-high of three assists.

Friday's success against Navy continued

into the next morning as the Jays faced off against the Wagner College Seahawks. Although the game remained tied 7-7 into the third quarter, the Jays fired off a series of six straight goals to put them up 13-7 and would finish the match by overwhelming the Seahawks 18-10.

However, the Jays perfect Conference record would only last a couple of hours as they fell to the Fordham Rams later that afternoon. The game remained incredibly close for the entire duration. The teams were tied 4-4 at the half and the Jays' biggest deficit sat at only two goals the entire afternoon. Still, it was the Rams who walked away victorious to end the Blue Jays' six game winning streak in the series.

To end the weekend, Hopkins faced #13 ranked Bucknell, who they would lose to in a tough 12-11 defeat. As a result the Jays finished the weekend 2-2 for their first conference tournament and are currently in a three-way tie for second in the MAWPC.

Next, men's polo will head to the Bronx for a double header against two New York teams: the Fordham Rams and the Wagner Seahawks, both in the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference. The first match against the Rams is set for 12 p.m. this Saturday and the second will be held at 5 p.m. the same day against the Seahawks.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Junior John Wilson, named MWPC Defensive Player of the Week.

Soccer fails to capitalize against Swarthmore

SOCCER, FROM B12

unable to clinch the victory. Just four minutes in, Swarthmore ended the game when the ball popped across the six-yard box and the Garnet's Tommy Sheehan flicked it into the goal.

The overtime time loss was a tough pill to swallow for the Jays, but as evidenced by Muniz, it also provides a good opportunity for the team to reflect.

"I know many of the guys were disappointed to open up conference play at home with a loss. As a team we are working on improving everyday. We missed a couple good changes during the first and second half that would have changed the game, but in the end we

should have done better defensively as well," Muniz said.

Likewise, Swiercz maintains a positive outlook for the rest of the season.

"I think in the past finishing has been an issue for us but this year we've done a much better job of scoring. This was our first time getting shut out all year... we outshot them and it was just unfortunate we didn't put one away... Obviously the team was disappointed in losing a conference game we thought we should have won, but hopefully we can keep doing what we're doing and now just win the games we should be winning," Swiercz said.

SPORTS

Looking to October: our MLB predictions

BY GREGORY MELICK
For The News-Letter

With less than a week left in the MLB regular season, there are only a couple playoff spots left in question, so it is time for a preview for the 2016 MLB playoffs.

St. Louis Cardinals: The Cardinals have made it to the playoffs for five straight years. In four of those, they went all the way to the National League Championship Series. The team is brimming with solid veterans who can withstand the pressure, but the fact is that they do not have any standout players to push them over the top.

Prediction: Miss the playoffs.

New York Mets: One year removed from their improbable National League Championship, the Mets are sitting in the top wild card spot. This year, however, they will not have the pitching standards of their past because their entire rotation has been decimated by injuries. It is 43-year-old Bartolo Colón who leads the team in starts. Meanwhile, most of their great young pitchers' arms are either injured or not performing. It is on the hitters to carry the team this year, which has not proven to be a successful strategy for the Amazin' Mets.

Prediction: Lose in National League Wild Card game.

San Francisco Giants: It is an even year, so that means the Giants will win the World Series. Right? The Giants are looking to defend their 2010, 2012 and 2014 World Championships. With Buster Posey leading the team, you can never count them out in the playoffs, especially when you add Madison Bumgarner. The problem will be the days when Bumgarner does not pitch, since their bullpen seems to be actually trying to blow saves.

Prediction: Lose in National League Division Series.

Los Angeles Dodgers: It will be the fourth straight year in the playoffs for the Dodgers. They look to make it their first year as National League Champions since 1988, which also happens to be the last year they won the World Series. Unfortunately for Dodger fans, there are just too many question marks in their starting rotation, especially with Clayton Kershaw's health in addition to his poor performances in the playoffs.

Prediction: Lose in National League Division Series.

Washington Nationals: This is almost the Washington Nationals team we

expected last year when they got Max Scherzer to add to Stephen Strasburg and Bryce Harper to their roster. Now that they have arrived, it is not exactly as expected. Daniel Murphy is their best hitter, and we all remember what he did last year in the playoffs. But with Bryce Harper struggling, they will not make it past the National League juggernauts.

Prediction: Lose in National League Championship Series.

Chicago Cubs: Could this actually be the year? The Cubs have not won a World Series since Theodore Roosevelt was President (1908), and this is the best chance they've had to break that streak in recent memory. The Cubs really have no weaknesses. Their core of young hitters play defense exceptionally, their pitchers have been dominating and midseason acquisition Aroldis Chapman is still the best closer in the league.

Prediction: Find a way to keep the streak alive (Black Cat? Goat? Bartman?) but lose in the World Series.

Baltimore Orioles: The Orioles can hit home runs. That is also about all they can do, so a deep playoff run is not realistic for them.

Prediction: Lose in American League Wild Card Game.

Toronto Blue Jays: With the Blue Jays in the playoffs, all the games in Toronto will be a must-watch as the baseball hype continues to roll up north. If there is a rematch between the Blue Jays and the Rangers, do not think for a second that either team has forgotten what happened back in May between Rougned Odor and José Bautista. Be ready for fireworks.

Prediction: Lose in American League Division Series.

Cleveland Indians: With many young, inexperienced players, the playoffs will be an uphill battle due to the large number of playoff tested teams. But at least Cleveland has the Cavs.

Prediction: Lose in American League Division Series.

Texas Rangers: The Texas Rangers have still never won a World Series despite a few close calls in recent years. This year, they have great hitters as always, but their pitching after Cole Hamels cannot be relied on. No one in the AL, however, has truly elite pitching.

Prediction: Lose in American League Championship Series.

Boston Red Sox: The Red Sox are the hottest team in the league right now.

Coming into the playoffs, that's really all that matters, as displayed two years ago by the Royals and last year by the Mets. Their prolific offense is led by retiring superstar David Ortiz — think 2012 Baltimore Ravens sending off Ray Lewis. In his last year, David Ortiz will bring one more ring to Fenway Park.

Prediction: World Series champions.

BY GAURAV VERMA
Sports Editor

This past weekend, ninth-ranked Hopkins football improved to 4-0 on the season, with a thrilling 30-24 win against rival #24 Muhlenberg Mules in Allentown, Pa. The Blue Jays and Mules are annually amongst the top teams in the Centennial Conference, with one of them having held a share of the conference title every year since 2001. The game is often among the toughest all season for Hopkins, and this year was no exception. *The News-Letter* recognizes that there were a number of viable candidates on the team for the Athlete of the Week, such as se-



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Senior Jack Campbell excelled against Muhlenberg.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK JACK CAMPBELL — FOOTBALL

nior linebacker Garrett Spek, who was named Centennial Conference Defensive Player of the Week and senior safety Jack Toner, whose two interceptions late in the game helped seal a victory for the Jays. Offensively, quarterback Jonathan Germano, wide receivers Bradley Munday and Brett Caggiano and running back Ryan Cary helped lead the offense and were worthy of recognition as well.

This week, however, we have decided to name senior linebacker and co-captain Jack Campbell our Athlete of the Week. The pre-med, biology major and Chagrin Falls, Ohio native notched 14 tackles, one sack, an interception and a forced fumble. His efforts were essential to Hopkins shutting down Muhlenberg in the second half and we were fortunate to interview him this week.

The News-Letter: Muhlenberg is one the tougher opponents you will play, and you found yourself in a rare position

over the past couple seasons, down at the start of halftime. What was the team's mentality going into the locker room, and how did you guys buckle down and come out with the win?

Jack Campbell: Our mentality did not change at halftime. Going into the game, we knew Muhlenberg was going to be a tough opponent, so we were ready for a tight game. We kept our composure and knew that we just had to execute better in the second half to come away with the victory.

N-L: What does it mean for you to be a team captain, and what are your responsibilities? How do you go about being the best captain you could possibly be?

JC: It is a great honor to be selected a captain. A few responsibilities of being a captain are helping out other players, treating everyone with respect and helping facilitate communication between coaches and players. I think it is important to be authentic so I try to lead through my actions.

N-L: How do you balance playing football for one of the top D-III programs in the country with being pre-med at a rigorous and challenging school like Hopkins?

JC: Our coaches are aware of the challenges at Hopkins, so we are very efficient with our time spent at practice. I have also learned to manage my time productively so it is not that difficult to keep a good balance.

N-L: For the vast majority of Hopkins football players, college is the last time you will step on a Football field. What lessons from the gridiron will you take with you after graduation?

JC: I have learned a lot from football and sports in general over the years.

The most important lesson for me is teamwork. The responsibilities I have to the team will translate later in life to commitments I may have to a company, group or individual. The group effort produces pretty great results.

N-L: Lastly, what are your personal and team goals as the season goes on?

JC: Personally, I want to be the best player I can be and really get to appreciate and enjoy my last year playing football. For the team, our ultimate goal is to win the conference and advance far in the playoffs. But we can only go 1-0 every week so we make a point to stay focused on the task at hand.

Hopkins football topples rival Muhlenberg

BY DENNIS NORMAN
For The News-Letter

In the first three games of the 2016 season, the Hopkins football team went 3-0, outscoring opposing teams by a combined 115-57 margin and only trailing once, for a period of about eight minutes in the first half against Moravian. In the team's fourth game, however, it would take a 60-minute, four-quarter effort to knock off Conference rival Muhlenberg 30-24 and remain undefeated in the young season.

The Hopkins offense, which has averaged 36.25 points per game this season, put up 20 in the first half, in large part due to the two touchdown passes by senior quarterback Jonathan Germano. However, the Mules kept up with the Hopkins offense, even taking the lead on a TD run by junior running back Nick Savant early in the second quarter. After a successful field goal by junior Jamie Sullivan with no time left in the first half, Hopkins trailed 24-20 heading into the locker room.

In the second half, the Jays came back with their defense ready to fight for their perfect record. Despite Muhlenberg's nine second half possessions, the Blue Jay defense held strong and did not allow Muhlenberg to score in the half while forcing four turnovers, including two late-game interceptions by senior defensive back

Jack Toner. Meanwhile, the offense netted 10 points on a touchdown run by junior Ryan Cary and field goal by Sullivan. After several defensive stops in the final minutes, the Blue Jays held on to win by six.

Germano finished the game with 23 completions on 42 attempts for 332 yards and two touchdowns as well as two interceptions, both in the third quarter. His first touchdown pass, which opened the scoring three minutes into the first quarter, went to junior wide receiver Brett Caggiano from 37 yards away. Sophomore Luke McFadden caught his other scoring pass, which came less than four minutes later.

Caggiano would finish as the leading receiver with 155 yards on the day. Senior wideout Bradley Munday also finished above the century mark with 103 yards on a team high of nine receptions. Standout running-back, junior Ryan Cary, was also a major component of the offense, rushing for 106 yards on 26 attempts.

After struggling in the first half, the Hopkins defense, which allowed nearly 500 offensive yards from Muhlenberg on the day, managed to hold the Mules completely scoreless in the final 30 minutes. After the game, senior linebacker Jack Campbell credited his team's effort and intensity for the improved second half results.

"We didn't really make any big adjust-

ments at halftime," Campbell said. "We just knew that we didn't play Hopkins defense in the first half and made too many mistakes. Muhlenberg is a talented offense that will capitalize on these mistakes. In the second half, we started tackling better, forcing turnovers and playing with better intensity and concentration. It was a group effort in the second half. Everyone did their job and we came up with some big plays to help win the game."

For the second consecutive week, the Blue Jays were narrowly outgained by their opponents. The Mules also finished with 31 first downs to the University's 23. However, the Hopkins offense scored on all four trips inside the Muhlenberg 20 yard line, unlike the Mules, who failed to score on two of their five opportunities.

Defensively, Campbell turned in an excellent performance, finishing with 14 total tackles, a sack, a forced fumble and an interception in the third quarter. Only fellow linebacker and

classmate Garrett Spek had more tackles in the game, finishing with 16 total and two sacks.

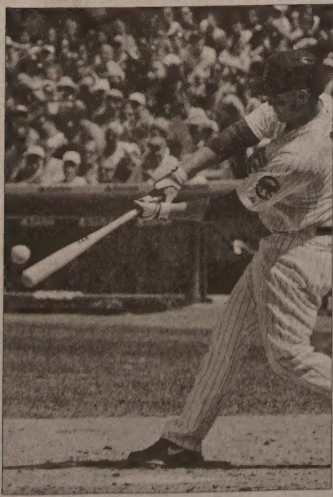
In spite of these efforts, the result was still in question in the final minutes, which saw Muhlenberg's last two offensive chances thwarted by a pair of interceptions by Jack Toner in the end zone. Toner's second interception came in the game's final play, sealing the victory and the second half shutout.

Two Blue Jays received recognition for their performances in the win against the Mules. Linebacker Garrett Spek was named the Centennial Conference Defensive Player of the Week. In no small part due to his clutch interceptions, defensive back Jack Toner was named to the D3football.com Team of the Week.

With the close victory, the Blue Jays improve to 4-0 on the season and are now in sole possession of first place in the Centennial Conference. On Saturday, they will face conference foe, 3-1 Juniata, at Homewood Field. Kickoff is scheduled for noon.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Senior Jack Toner had two interceptions against Muhlenberg.



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Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Junior outside hitter Elizabeth Wuerstle was named Centennial Conference Volleyball Player of the Week following a two game stretch in which she recorded 23 kills in consecutive victories for the Jays.

CALENDAR

Friday
Field Hockey vs. Swarthmore 7 p.m.

Saturday
Cross Country at Paul Short Invite 10 a.m.
Football vs. Juniata 12 p.m.

Water polo has first win of the season

By EMILIE HOFFER
Sports Editor

After what was arguably one of their worst starts to open the season, the Hopkins water polo team started to see a change in momentum as Conference play began this weekend. The loss of their first seven games, while disheartening, is an ill-portrayal of the Blue Jays' capabilities and not indicative of the future of their 2016 season.

The Jays began the season facing seven teams all ranked among the top 15 in the country among both D-I and D-III schools. Additionally, three of these teams are ranked in the top four of the NCAA, including number one ranked University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). All-American goalie, John Wilson, who was named the Conference Defensive Player of the Week, explained that the tough start this season was indeed a learning experience for the Jays.

"After losing so many core contributors from last season, we had a tough time facing such a rigorous opening schedule," Wilson said. "It was definitely challenging but also a good building opportunity for such a

young team."

Things started to turn around this weekend for the Jays, who had an encouraging start to in-Conference play. The tournament kicked off on Friday with the inaugural game of the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Association, in which the Jays faced off against long-time rival, the Naval Academy Mids. Fans packed the Newton White Aquatic Center and even stirred up a little out of the pool action as Hopkins claimed a decisive 14-8 victory against Navy for their first win of the season.

The Jays were the first on the board, starting the first quarter with a strong 4-1 lead. They continued to ride the momentum to the end of the first half, leading the Mids 9-5. Wilson, who would make a total of 16 saves over the course of the game, mentioned that the University's defense would be key if they were to beat Navy.

"Navy is always a physical opponent, so we had to focus on handling that intensity on the defensive end," Wilson said. "Our mental focus and patience during the game is what gave us our edge."

SEE POLO, PAGE B10

M. Soccer falls to 0-2 in conference competition

By COURTNEY COLWELL
For The News-Letter

In a disappointing overtime defeat, Hopkins men's soccer lost to Swarthmore 1-0 last Saturday at Homewood Field, leaving the Jays 0-2 in the Conference.

From the game's onset, Hopkins exerted tremendous offensive pressure on the Swarthmore Garnet. Gaining possession and maintaining control early on, the Jays focused on staying true to their highly effective game strategy. Junior captain Mike Swiercz explained that the team's emphasis on possession is one that has guided them over the years.

"Coach Appleby has done a great job of instilling a possession-based strategy that I think has caught on even more this year than in the past," Swiercz said.

With added possessions came added opportunities to score. In the first half alone, the Jays out-shot Swarthmore seven to one. They also had an additional six corner kicks to Swarthmore's zero, but failed to capitalize on their momentum.

In the 39th minute of play, the Garnet had a dangerous shot at the Hopkins goal, but after a tremendous save by

senior goalie Bryan See, Swarthmore's chance at ending the first half ahead was quelled.

Hopkins began the second half of the game energized, with a series of near scoring opportunities beginning with a corner kick in the 53rd minute. After an impressive save from Swarthmore goalie Michael Thut, in which he just barely grasped a header from sophomore midfielder Cole Rosenberger, Hopkins made another attempt to score in the 57th minute, as junior defender Jonah Muniz drove the ball down the right side of the field and crossed it into the box. Again, Hopkins was unable to capitalize on this opportunity. A minute later, the Garnet rose again to block a shot from junior midfielder Drew Collins.

Swarthmore fought back with opportunities of their own in the 66th and 73rd minute but failed to finish, and the game remained scoreless. When regulation time was called at the 90-minute mark, the game was still tied at zero, bringing it to a golden goal overtime period.

Despite the Jays' best efforts in the opening minutes of extra-time, they were ultimately

SEE SOCCER, PAGE B10

Football rallies in final half to defeat Mules



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The Blue Jays Football team moved to 4-0 on the season as they downed the Muhlenberg Mules in a game which is sure to become an instant classic. Trailing 24-20 at intermission, the Jays faced a deficit and adversity for the first time all season. The Jays defense clamped down in the 2nd half and held Muhlenberg scoreless, with the second of two interceptions from senior defensive back Jack Toner coming in the endzone as time expired to preserve the victory.

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INSIDE NFL Week 3: Assessing the Undefeated

Sports Editor Andrew Johnson discusses the five remaining undefeated teams in the NFL, offering who he thinks is a contender and who might eventually cool off.

Page B10

Athlete of the Week

Jack Campbell proved his leadership on and off the field this week. The line-backer notched 14 tackles, one sack, an interception and a forced fumble in this past weeks game.

Page B11

MLB Playoffs

With the regular season coming to an end, it is time to take a look at some of the most likely and least likely candidates for success this MLB post-season.

Page B11

W. Soccer shuts down Conference opponent

By ESTHER HONG
For The News-Letter

The Blue Jays dominated the Muhlenberg Mules 2-0 in their first Centennial Conference shutout of the season. Saturday's victory is the Blue Jays' fourth straight win, as they defeated St. Mary's, Washington College and Rutgers University-Camden prior to the Mules.

Prior to the contest, Senior Midfielders Meg Van de Loo and Ana Bengoechea earned spots on the Hopkins Women's Soccer 25th Anniversary Team, which is a collection of the program's most valuable 22 players throughout the last 25 years. Along with being honored on the Anniversary Team, the two All-Americans tallied a goal each against the Mules during Saturday's Centennial Conference victory.

Van de Loo would score first for the Blue Jays in the ninth minute by taking advantage of a penalty kick and putting it past the Mules' freshman goalkeeper Libby Juliano.

Five minutes later, junior goalkeeper Bess Kitzmiller saved a penalty kick attempt by the Mules' junior midfielder Carly DeNigris. Kitzmiller's save marks her fifth victory in goal for the Blue Jays.

"A play that really stood out was when a penalty kick was called on us, and Bess made an amazing save to keep it a shutout," sophomore forward Kristen Hori said. "In the beginning of the

season, we were having some trouble maintaining defense, but getting the shutout was a big step forward."

In the 20th minute of the game, Bengoechea wasted no time in the box as she one-timed the cross from Hori, giving the Blue Jays a 2-0 lead within the first quarter, which would remain for the rest of the game. After leading the Blue Jays with nine assists during her freshman season, Hori racked up her first assist of the year on Saturday.

Although no goals were scored on either side during the second half, the Blue Jays continued to be aggressive, tallying 15 shots to the Mules' two after halftime.

Keeping the Mules from converting any of their shots, the Blue Jays consistently put the Mules under pressure throughout the entirety of the game. The Blue Jays finished with a total of 28 shots and six corner kicks, while the Mules finished with five shots and no corner kick opportunities.

Hori revealed that the Blue Jays' approach and mindset in the game has been pivotal to their fast start at the beginning of the season.

"Going into

the game, we knew that we couldn't take this or any team lightly, and we had to come out hard," Hori said. "The team's goal is to focus more on the process rather than the outcome when it comes to the different aspects of the game, whether on or off the field. Of course, we strive to win the conference and the NCAA tournament, but in order for us to grow as a team, we need to focus on the things we can control such as communication and movement."

Coming off a campaign in which they won the Centennial Conference and snagged a bid

to the NCAA Tournament, the Blue Jays have high expectations for the remainder of their season.

"The rest of our season has so much potential, and I just see it going up from here. We got over the initial barrier of playing with a new team going into a new season, and we now know what we need to do to reach our goals," Hori said.

The Blue Jays return to Homewood Field on Wednesday, Oct. 5 for a Centennial Conference matchup against Franklin & Marshall. The game is scheduled to start at 7 p.m.



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Senior Megan Van de Loo scored the Blue Jays' first goal against the Mules.